

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

-----:
   
IN RE: :
   
:
   
THE EL FARO INCIDENT OFF THE: NTSB Accident No.
   
COAST OF THE BAHAMAS ON : DCA16MM001
   
OCTOBER 1, 2015 :
   
:
   
-----:

INTERVIEW OF: CAPT. JOHN LAWRENCE

Wednesday,
   
October 7, 2015

Marriott Hotel
   
Jacksonville, Florida

BEFORE:

JON FURUKAWA, NTSB
   
MIKE KUCHARSKI, NTSB
   
CARRIE BELL, NTSB
   
KENNETH BRAGG, NTSB
   
BRIAN YOUNG, NTSB
   
KEITH FAWCETT, U.S. Coast Guard
   
PATTY FINSTERBUSCH, TOTE Services
   
JIM FISHER-ANDERSEN, TOTE Services
   
LEE PETERSON, TOTE Services
   
LOUIS O'DONNELL, ABS
   
LCDR [REDACTED] U.S. Coast Guard
   
KEVIN STITH, TOTE Services
   
MELISSA SERRIDGE, TOTE Services
   
[REDACTED] U.S. Coast Guard

PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE INTERVIEWEE:

STEPHEN P. KYNE, ESQ., BURKE & PARSONS

This transcript was produced from audio provided by the
   
National Transportation Safety Board.

TABLE OF CORRECTIONS TO TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW FOR:

Captain John Lawrence

TAKEN ON:

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

<b><u>PAGE NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>LINE NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>CURRENT WORDING</u></b>	<b><u>CORRECTED WORDING</u></b>
2	6-7	designated person for person ashore	Designated Person Ashore
3	24	Marine	marine
4	7	Tank	Tanker
4	8	th	the
4	10	KC	K-Sea
4	18	manager	Manager
5	23	m	me
6	7	first	First
6	14	ick	pick
7	14	male	Male Participant
8	21	This is	Captain Lawrence -
9	1	rest	list
9	1	Had	Have
10	17	co	[delete "co"]

<b><u>PAGE NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>LINE NUMBER</u></b>	<b><u>CURRENT WORDING</u></b>	<b><u>CORRECTED WORDING</u></b>
14	6	data	call
14	11	data	call
14	19	data	call
16	2	it to that	that
19	3	ample	actual [?]
20	20	hand	handle
22	20	Incident	Incident Command
23	6	MARSAT	Inmarsat
23	11	designated person	Designated Person
24	21	DP	DPA
24	22	Hearing	Engineering
28	7	was a	was
29	9	wind to	wind
31	1	076	706
31	2	017	717
31	10	ouit	out
32	4	emergency response members	Emergency Response Team members
33	13	we	they

<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>	<u>LINE NUMBER</u>	<u>CURRENT WORDING</u>	<u>CORRECTED WORDING</u>
35	17	contractor and	contractor in
37	4	do, to	do than to
39	23	all	call
41	1	emergency	Emergency Response Team
42	25	GMVSS	GMDSS
43	1	GMVSS	GMDSS
43	6	GMVSS	GMDSS
43	15	GMVSS	GMDSS
49	19	TNT South	T&T Salvage

John Lawrence

Printed Name of Person Providing the Above Information

Signature of Person Providing the Above Information

Date

11/6/15

0659 - Missed call from ship  
0706 - Emerg # call to me.

0700 - Ship left way

- Seattle popped open on #2 back
- All safe
- 3 hull water.
- Evergreen State. - NO ENGINES

0706 - I spoke w/ CAPT.

0717 - BSAS Alost Ship Security Alert

0724 - I called RCC Kefauver  
(cc) PROTOCOL

0738 - CG Miami contacted me.  
VIA cell

0745 - I contacted T+T Salvage

→

0922 - Lost from CG.

- no words w/in 100'
- No comm
- called me to day after

↓

→ Mr Davidson

→ Second power of  $\alpha$  in

→ Seattle (down open)

→ 3 Hold candidate (WA TRZ)

→ Post-Lit

→ the Mon  
organ?

63-263A

✓ 073-51-6 W

FEMALE  
SPOKE  
TO MATE

→ Can off (deviation ship and /

$\rightarrow$   $48' \text{ E of } \underline{\text{San Juan}}$

→ put out fire. Thompson

→ List  
William Frank  
C. H. H. H.

✓



→ No ponds

→ WX →

→ Sued NE

→ 10-12' mud

→ Area Vides

→ List ~ 15<sup>3</sup>

→ Hanging shell  
1m 215512  
COULD NOT IDENTIFY

→ BAS

Don't PLAN LEAVE  
SHIP

→

11:00 PM  
pond out

CAS BAS  
Push all  
Button

push  
to  
Coordinator

0703

0724 → update w/ ECC

[Redacted]

CHRY

P. Miller

[Redacted]

CH

[Redacted]

~~DISCLOSED~~

→ Not in distraction phase

→ What power

→ Can & Not deep

→ with you or to Baldwins

→ just disabled

→ up to Company

→ Commercial Spencer ADJUST

→ call reply

in landed in now by being points

in 702.1200 seas Foreign Country



1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (2:45 p.m.)

3 MR. YOUNG: All right, so we're going to go  
4 on record right now. It's Wednesday, October 7th at  
5 1445. We're here in Jacksonville, Florida at the  
6 Marriott. We're interviewing the designated person for  
7 person ashore for TOTE, John Lawrence.

8 My name is Brian Young. I'm the Engineering  
9 group chairman for the NTSB. And we're going to go  
10 around the room and introduce ourselves for the  
11 recording. And we'll go around the room this way, and  
12 we'll end up with John.

13 MR. KUCHARSKI: Hi. I'm Mike Kucharski,  
14 NTSB. I'm the Group Chairman of Operations.

15 MR. [REDACTED] I'm [REDACTED] with the  
16 Coast Guard, and I'm a member of the Operations Group.

17 MR. STITH: Kevin Stith. I'm the TOTE  
18 representative with the Operations Group.

19 MS. SERRIDGE: Melissa Serridge, HR manager  
20 for TOTE Services. I'm with the Human Performance  
21 Group.

22 MR. FISKE-ANDERSEN: This is Jim Fiske-  
23 Andersen, TOTE Services. I'm with the Engineering  
24 Group.

25 MS. FINSTERBUSCH: Patty Finsterbusch from

1 TOTE Services with the Survival Group.

2 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the U.S. Coast  
3 Guard, with the Engineering Group.

4 MR. FAWCETT: Keith Fawcett, U.S. Coast  
5 Guard, civilian investigator with the Human Performance  
6 Group.

7 MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB Group Chairman  
8 for Human Performance Group.

9 MR. FURUKAWA: Jon Furukawa, NTSB Group  
10 Chairman for the Survival Group.

11 MR. BRAGG: Kenneth Bragg, NTSB Human  
12 Performance Group.

13 MR. KYNE: Steve Kyne, representative/  
14 consultant of John Lawrence.

15 MR. O'DONNELL: Louis O'Donnell, Assistant  
16 Chief (inaudible) ABS.

17 CPT. LAWRENCE: And John Lawrence, TOTE  
18 Services, Manager of Safety and Operations.

19 MR. YOUNG: And, John, could you please  
20 spell your last name for the record?

21 CPT. LAWRENCE: L-A-W-R-E-N-C-E.

22 MR. YOUNG: Okay, we'll start the interview.  
23 If you could, John, please, a very quick background of  
24 your Marine training and experience.

25 CPT. LAWRENCE: I went to the, attended the

1 U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, graduated in 1975. I  
2 sailed for 14 years on my license. I sailed, last few  
3 years, sailed as Captain, was Master.

4 Then I went to work for Overseas Shipholding  
5 Group which was Maritime Overseas at the time. I worked  
6 for them for ten years as a port captain. Then I went,  
7 we, I went to work for Alaska Tank Company, and I was  
8 th team leader for Health Safety, Environment and  
9 Quality for them.

10 Then I went to work for KC Transportation  
11 out of New York, and I was the vice-president of HSQE  
12 for them. Haven't been able to hold a job down and --  
13 I shouldn't say that on the record. But then I was,  
14 took this job back in February of 2014.

15 And the company was located in New Jersey  
16 and it relocated last year here in August, so I'm down  
17 here in Jacksonville, Florida, TOTE Services, as  
18 manager of Safety and Operations.

19 MR. YOUNG: Okay, thank you. And we  
20 discussed before the interview. We are focusing this  
21 interview on the communication from the El Faro to the  
22 Emergency Response Team which, we understand, you are a  
23 member of.

24 And, if you would please, maybe take us  
25 through the description of the Emergency Response Team

1 -- who is on it, how the vessels know how to contact  
2 you and how you were reached and what you heard that  
3 morning.

4 CPT. LAWRENCE: Okay, so one of my  
5 responsibilities is Emergency Response Team  
6 coordinator. So I'm in charge of the Emergency  
7 Response Team. We have -- I'd have to refer to my,  
8 actually to our manual, but roughly six to seven people  
9 on the Emergency Response Team within the office.

10 As far as contact in an emergency, for this  
11 type of an emergency the vessel would either call me  
12 direct on my cell phone or he could call our Emergency  
13 Response number. We have a call center number that he  
14 would call where, once he gets into the call center,  
15 they would hold him on the call and they would notify  
16 the -

17 Actually what they would do is they would  
18 immediately notify all of the people on the Emergency  
19 Response Team by text and by email. And they would  
20 attempt to call people in the order on the Emergency  
21 Response Team, beginning with me, on our cell phones  
22 and hold the call until the captain was able to speak  
23 with me or the next person in line, going down the line  
24 direct on the Emergency Response Team.

25 And once you take a call, any of the

1 Emergency Response Team members, once they take a call,  
2 the call center would also send out another, typically  
3 text or email to say that somebody has already picked  
4 up the call unless the person on the Emergency Response  
5 Team may do that themselves typically, depending on  
6 what the call was about.

7 MR. YOUNG: And on the morning of the first,  
8 when the phone call came from the ship, the call went  
9 through the call center?

10 CPT. LAWRENCE: No.

11 MR. YOUNG: No?

12 CPT. LAWRENCE: Not initially. Initially,  
13 the captain had apparently called me on my cell phone,  
14 first call. I did not ick it up until the last ring by  
15 the time I got to the phone. So I missed the call, and  
16 he began leaving a message.

17 So he left me a voice message. I listened  
18 to the voice message and the request was for me to call  
19 him back. While I was dialing him back, it was a  
20 satellite telephone number, the emergency call center  
21 actually was -- he had called them, I guess, after he  
22 left a message so they were dialing, they were ringing  
23 me while I was dialing him back.

24 So I immediately picked that up, and they  
25 put me directly in touch with the captain at that point

1       there.   So I spoke with him then.

2                   MR. YOUNG:   On the message the captain left,  
3       do you still have it?

4                   CPT. LAWRENCE:   Yes.

5                   MR. YOUNG:   Do you have it?   Would you find  
6       it for us or --

7                   CPT. LAWRENCE:   I can.

8                   MR. YOUNG:   You can?   I would, everyone  
9       would be interested to at least hear it.   So we can --  
10      and maybe tell us the time it was, had come in as well.

11                  CPT. LAWRENCE:   Yes.

12                  MR. YOUNG:   Thank you.

13                  CPT. LAWRENCE:   Right here.

14                  male:   John, is that preserved elsewhere  
15      too?

16                  CPT. LAWRENCE:   Yes, right now it is, one  
17      place.

18                  MR. YOUNG:   And maybe you can tell us what  
19      time the call was.

20                  CPT. LAWRENCE:   Okay, October 1st, 2015 at  
21      7:00 a.m.

22                  MR. YOUNG:   And do you recognize the number  
23      as the Inmarsat number on the bridge or his office or?

24                  CPT. LAWRENCE:   No, I just recognize it as a  
25      typical Inmarsat number.

1 MR. YOUNG: Okay.

2 CPT. LAWRENCE: I did not know what vessel  
3 it was coming from. Well, I assumed it was coming from  
4 the El Faro seeing he had just left me a message and  
5 this was immediately after.

6 The message that I missed was 0659. I'm  
7 sorry, the message I picked up was 0659. That's when  
8 he had called, left a message. I'm sorry -- I'm going  
9 backwards here. The message he left is right here.  
10 0659 is the actual call --

11 MR. YOUNG: From Inmarsat --

12 CPT. LAWRENCE: -- right, from his initial -  
13 - right.

14 MR. YOUNG: Okay.

15 CPT. LAWRENCE: Like -- okay, ready to play  
16 it?

17 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

18 CPT. LAWRENCE: Okay, let me put it on  
19 Speaker. And where's the --

20 (Playback recording)

21 CPT. MICHAEL DAVIDSON: This is Captain  
22 Davidson, Thursday morning, 0700. We have a  
23 navigational incident. Um, I'll keep it short. A, uh,  
24 scuttle popped open on 2-deck and we were having some  
25 free communication of water go down the 3 -- 3-hold.

1 Had a pretty good rest. I want to, uh, just touch --  
2 contact you verbally here. Everybody's safe. Um, uh,  
3 but I want to talk to you.

4 CPT. LAWRENCE: That's the end.

5 MR. YOUNG: Does it say how long that was?

6 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes. Let's see, 35 seconds.

7 MR. [REDACTED] Do you have any other recording?

8 MR. YOUNG: I'll get and XO. We'll check  
9 it. That was -- So then as soon as this message was  
10 being recorded, then you received the phone call coming  
11 in?

12 CPT. LAWRENCE: Correct. And that's where -  
13 - yes, I'm sorry. I kind of put it backwards there.  
14 Yes, that's when -- I received this message and then I  
15 received the call, the message from the, or actually  
16 ringing from the call center. And then I picked it up  
17 immediately, and that's when I spoke with him directly.

18 MR. YOUNG: And to the best of your  
19 recollection, can you remember what the conversation  
20 was on the second phone call?

21 CPT. LAWRENCE: Real -- I'd like to --  
22 actually I have the notes. I'd really rather refer to  
23 my notes, which I don't have with me here, to give you  
24 the best recollection, you know, as far as what he had  
25 said at the time. And I can provide my notes later to



1 you.

2 MR. YOUNG: Okay, appreciate that, sir. One  
3 question specifically when it comes to engineering, at  
4 the time of the phone call, did the captain report that  
5 there were any issues with the propulsion?

6 CPT. LAWRENCE: To my recollection, he said  
7 he had no main engines, lost main engines. And that's  
8 to my recollection. I'd have to refer to my notes to  
9 tell you exactly.

10 MR. YOUNG: No main engines?

11 CPT. LAWRENCE: Right.

12 MR. YOUNG: And do you know if there's any  
13 further description, whether it was no boilers or no  
14 turbines?

15 CPT. LAWRENCE: I do not recall that, no.

16 MR. YOUNG: Okay. Had there been any prior  
17 co communication from the ship to yourself or the  
18 office before this 0700 timeframe since they departed?

19 CPT. LAWRENCE: Not to my knowledge.

20 MR. YOUNG: Okay.

21 CPT. LAWRENCE: To me or to the office --  
22 well, not to my knowledge of either one --

23 MR. YOUNG: Okay.

24 CPT. LAWRENCE: -- either to me or to the  
25 office.

1 MR. YOUNG: And how about after 0700?

2 CPT. LAWRENCE: No.

3 MR. YOUNG: No?

4 CPT. LAWRENCE: Not to me.

5 MR. YOUNG: Okay.

6 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

7 MR. YOUNG: Do you know if there might have  
8 been other phone calls to other people in your office?

9 CPT. LAWRENCE: Not to my knowledge.

10 MR. YOUNG: The second phone call that came  
11 through, do you have any more to offer before you look  
12 at your notes or you prefer to --

13 CPT. LAWRENCE: I prefer to go through my  
14 notes.

15 MR. YOUNG: Okay.

16 CPT. LAWRENCE: You know, so I wouldn't miss  
17 anything.

18 MR. YOUNG: Okay, and what -- would you be  
19 comfortable with providing those notes to us?

20 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

21 MR. YOUNG: Surrounding this incident, as  
22 the Director of Safety, were any other problems with  
23 the propulsion systems reported to you during this  
24 voyage?

25 CPT. LAWRENCE: Not to -- no. No.

1 MR. YOUNG: Okay, I guess pass you around  
2 the room to let others add some questions.

3 CPT. LAWRENCE: Okay.

4 MR. YOUNG: We'll start -- Mike? Thank you.

5 MR. KUCHARSKI: Do you recollect if he said  
6 they were on emergency power or not? Diesel?

7 CPT. LAWRENCE: I do not remember him saying  
8 that.

9 MR. KUCHARSKI: And you recollect, to the  
10 best of your recollection, there were no main engines?  
11 This is really critical. That's why I'm asking this  
12 question.

13 CPT. LAWRENCE: I know, and, as I said, once  
14 we, I provide my notes to you, I think that will say  
15 exactly what -- you know, instead of doing it, just  
16 trying to go by memory and possibly say something, you  
17 know, it's been so many days later, that's incorrect.  
18 Yes.

19 MR. KUCHARSKI: Do you have any knowledge of  
20 any previous either losses of propulsion or loss of  
21 engines on that vessel?

22 CPT. LAWRENCE: Not that I recall.

23 MR. KUCHARSKI: And how about any cargo,  
24 lost cargo, damage, storm type damage?

25 CPT. LAWRENCE: Nothing that I recall.

1 MR. KUCHARSKI: Okay. Okay, thank you.

2 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] with the Coast  
3 Guard. From the voicemail playback, I heard him say  
4 that a scuttle popped open. Is that one of the things  
5 he would have -- so is there any way you can go into  
6 that detail without your notes?

7 CPT. LAWRENCE: No, I honestly don't know  
8 exactly what he was talking about. I know what a  
9 scuttle typically is, but I don't know what he was  
10 talking about. I'm not familiar with where that was on  
11 the vessel.

12 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. I don't have anymore  
13 questions.

14 CPT. LAWRENCE: Okay.

15 MR. STITH: Kevin Stith with TOTE. Really  
16 just have two questions. Basically, the history with  
17 Captain Davidson, in relation to your position, has he  
18 ever called you before for an issue or for like drills?

19 CPT. LAWRENCE: To call me, I don't recall.

20 MR. STITH: Okay. In general, as the Safety  
21 and Operations manager, especially in regards to  
22 internal audits, things like that, has the El Faro's  
23 internal audits or things of that nature brought up any  
24 serious issues or concerns that you can recall?

25 CPT. LAWRENCE: Not that I can recall.

1 MR. STITH: Okay. That's all I had.

2 MR. PETERSON: No questions.

3 MS. FINSTERBUSCH: No questions.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Just one short question. You  
5 said that whenever you received your call from the  
6 captain you were connected through the data center?

7 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

8 MR. [REDACTED] They connected the two of you  
9 guys?

10 CPT. LAWRENCE: Correct.

11 MR. [REDACTED] And this is a third party data  
12 center?

13 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes, it is.

14 MR. [REDACTED] Who are they? Do you have their  
15 information?

16 CPT. LAWRENCE: I would have to get their  
17 information to you? I'd have to --

18 MR. [REDACTED] Since they connected the two of  
19 you, does the data center record the conversations? Or  
20 is it passive?

21 CPT. LAWRENCE: I'm not sure. I do not know  
22 --

23 MR. [REDACTED] All right. So, okay.

24 CPT. LAWRENCE: -- if they do.

25 MR. [REDACTED] But we need to know who that was

1 and --

2 CPT. LAWRENCE: Sure.

3 MR. [REDACTED] -- get the information on that.

4 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

5 MR. [REDACTED] That's all I have.

6 MR. FAWCETT: Keith Fawcett, U.S. Coast  
7 Guard. The term that the captain used, navigational  
8 incident, you know, he sounded like -- I guess what I'm  
9 trying to ask is, is that a company term or an SMS term  
10 of art that describes like a broad array of things that  
11 happen within your company?

12 CPT. LAWRENCE: Not that I'm aware of.

13 MR. FAWCETT: Yes, I'm just curious as to  
14 the terminology in relation to the flooding of that and  
15 why it would be called a navigational incident.

16 CPT. LAWRENCE: I really don't know --

17 MR. FAWCETT: Okay.

18 CPT. LAWRENCE: -- why he used that  
19 terminology, you know, at that time.

20 MR. FAWCETT: Okay. Thank you.

21 MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB. So what is  
22 your process in terms of follow-up with the Emergency  
23 Response Team after you get a call like this?

24 CPT. LAWRENCE: What I do is I would  
25 typically send a message out to the Emergency Response

1 Team through a -- the same way that I would receive it  
2 as a group email. I would send it to that out -- that  
3 sends a text to every Emergency Response Team cell  
4 phone, person's cell phone and an additional email to  
5 each one of the people on the Emergency Response Team.

6 And then I'd put in it whatever I want to  
7 put in it. So I, at that time, wrote a quick  
8 description of the incident to notify everyone on the  
9 Emergency Response Team of what the call was about.

10 MS. BELL: And from there, is there -- what  
11 happens after that?

12 CPT. LAWRENCE: What happens after that is  
13 we basically respond, as appropriate, to the incident  
14 at hand.

15 MS. BELL: As a team?

16 CPT. LAWRENCE: It depends, depends on what  
17 type of incident it is. If it's something minor --  
18 something major, like this, you know, then we respond.  
19 Basically we went -- I responded, I stayed home and  
20 made appropriate notifications throughout the company  
21 and to the Coast Guard. And then I -- so I basically I  
22 was -- I became the point of contact.

23 And so I stayed by the phone, and then they  
24 ramped up the Incident Command Team within the office.  
25 So then I communicated -- I was the person that was

1 trying to recommunicate, re-establish communication  
2 with the vessel. And I kept establishing communication  
3 with the Coast Guard, and then I'd relay that to the  
4 Emergency Response Team, the company, until eventually,  
5 approximately noontime, I think, when I felt, have a  
6 period where the calls wouldn't be coming in.

7 Then I drove into the office and then I took  
8 over the Incident Command in the office at that time.

9 MS. BELL: Okay. Would we, maybe, be able  
10 to get the text notification that you sent as well?

11 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes, I can provide that.

12 MS. BELL: Okay. Thank you.

13 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

14 MR. BRAGG: Kenneth Bragg, Human  
15 Performance.

16 CPT. LAWRENCE: I'm sorry, it wasn't a text.  
17 I sent an email.

18 MS. BELL: Email -- that --

19 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

20 MS. BELL: Okay. Thank you.

21 CPT. LAWRENCE: Okay.

22 MR. BRAGG: Yes, Kenneth Bragg, Human  
23 Performance. Prior to this all did you have any  
24 personal knowledge of Captain Davidson?

25 CPT. LAWRENCE: I had met him.



1 MR. BRAGG: You had?

2 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes, I met him, I don't  
3 recall exactly the times I had met him.

4 MR. BRAGG: And I (inaudible) when you  
5 finally made contact with him, how long was the call?

6 CPT. LAWRENCE: I'd have to look at my notes  
7 to see how long it goes.

8 MR. BRAGG: Approximately -- 10 minutes, 2  
9 minutes, 10 seconds?

10 CPT. LAWRENCE: I can probably tell you  
11 exactly how long it was, just looking at my -- the  
12 length of that telephone call?

13 MR. BRAGG: Yes, please.

14 CPT. LAWRENCE: Would that be helpful? I  
15 know, actually, I think I looked this up the other day  
16 and I think my phone erases everything within a week  
17 period. So it's something that may be captured on the  
18 company's, you know, phone records because mine only  
19 goes back to -- yes, mine actually, my phone record on  
20 the phone actually starts on last, on the Friday, the  
21 next day afterwards.

22 I think it's like a week period where it  
23 basically doesn't keep track of anything longer than a  
24 week as far as the record on the phone. But I would  
25 imagine the, AT&T, they have records of all incoming

1 and outgoing calls on the bill, so I would think so.  
2 That's something that our IT group could possibly  
3 provide you with ample time.

4 MR. BRAGG: Okay.

5 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes, sorry about that. I  
6 thought I had that.

7 MR. BRAGG: So based on conversation with  
8 him were you able to form an opinion as to how dire the  
9 situation was at that time?

10 CPT. LAWRENCE: I'd rather not give you my  
11 opinion or speculate right now. I'd rather just go  
12 through, provide my notes and let that be --

13 MR. BRAGG: Well, I mean, what I'm asking,  
14 what I'm trying to understand is his thought process at  
15 that time. And I understand you can't express what he  
16 was thinking.

17 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

18 MR. BRAGG: But understanding if he felt  
19 panicked or if he, you know, did he call you at the  
20 beginning of the emergency, had the emergency been  
21 going for awhile? That's what I'm trying to  
22 understand.

23 CPT. LAWRENCE: I think the only thing I can  
24 really say at this time is that his demeanor, it was  
25 very similar to the voice message he left. He seemed

1 to be at the same calm level as that throughout the  
2 phone call, very businesslike, matter of fact. He did  
3 not seem to panic.

4 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Did he seem -- did he  
5 mention any other challenges he was facing?

6 CPT. LAWRENCE: Again, I prefer to refer to  
7 my notes before that to make sure I'm not -- make sure  
8 I'm exact in what I'm relaying to you.

9 MR. BRAGG: Okay. Understood.

10 MR. [REDACTED] I just maybe have a follow-up  
11 question. After you consult your notes should we just  
12 reconvene and re-interview you so we have a good feel?  
13 And then we'll look over the safety management system?  
14 Would you --

15 CPT. LAWRENCE: Possibly. I mean, whatever  
16 you feel is the best way to do that.

17 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

18 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

19 MR. [REDACTED] Because the looking at the notes  
20 and us getting a really, really firm hand on what was  
21 said as quickly as possible --

22 CPT. LAWRENCE: All right.

23 MR. [REDACTED] -- since, I mean, it affects so  
24 much on where we look at the --

25 CPT. LAWRENCE: No, I completely understand.

1 And then I'm available, whatever you need, as far as  
2 that goes.

3 MR. [REDACTED] So will you look at those notes  
4 now, when you get back to the office? And can we  
5 schedule you then, look forward to scheduling you  
6 tomorrow or the next day, after we --

7 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes, I think so.

8 MR. YOUNG: What's the earliest you could be  
9 available with your notes?

10 CPT. LAWRENCE: I'd really -- right now I'm  
11 running the Incident Command for this incident, for the  
12 company, and so I'm just not entirely sure of my  
13 availability the rest of today and tomorrow. But I can  
14 get back with you with that.

15 MR. YOUNG: Would it help if we came to your  
16 office and interviewed you there?

17 CPT. LAWRENCE: No, because I haven't been  
18 to my office in days. I'm actually at our Incident  
19 Command Center. I don't think that would be the best  
20 place. And we're actually looking at the, at what  
21 stage the Incident Command is going to continue and  
22 where we'll be located.

23 I mean, I can come back here at some time.  
24 Whatever you think is best. I fully want to cooperate.  
25 I just haven't, don't have my notes available at this

1 time. I just didn't bring that.

2 MR. YOUNG: I think we are considering this  
3 interview and your notes as one of the most important  
4 interviews with a handle on how to proceed from here.  
5 So we would try to, like to schedule this as soon as  
6 possible.

7 CPT. LAWRENCE: Okay.

8 MR. YOUNG: So if there's any way, either  
9 later today, tonight or tomorrow, to try it again with  
10 your notes, we would definitely appreciate that. It  
11 would greatly assist in our ability to focus our  
12 efforts.

13 CPT. LAWRENCE: No, understood. I would  
14 think, again, I'm not sure what's happening at the,  
15 within the Incident Command and what we have going on  
16 tomorrow, but I'm going to try to find time tomorrow  
17 morning sometime, definitely.

18 MR. YOUNG: That would be good. Two further  
19 follow-up questions. This is Brian Young with the  
20 NTSB. Is the number to the Incident, I guess you're in  
21 a call center, in your SMS or posted on the bridge?

22 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

23 MR. YOUNG: Yes? Both?

24 CPT. LAWRENCE: On -- I'm not exactly sure  
25 where they post it. It's supposed to be. I'm not even

1       sure if it actually says they have to post that number  
2       because we have a number of numbers for us for  
3       response. And I'd really have to refer to our SMS to  
4       see where we say to post it.

5               MR. YOUNG: Okay. And would you -- do you  
6       have the MARSAT number that the phone call came in on?  
7       What was that phone number? Just so we can see if we  
8       can locate where the phone that it was dialed from came  
9       in.

10              CPT. LAWRENCE: And I'll just also say, too,  
11       as one of my hats as designated person, they have -- my  
12       cell phone number is posted as designated person on  
13       various locations within the ship.

14              Okay, it's [REDACTED].

15              MR. YOUNG: All right, that's [REDACTED]  
16       [REDACTED].

17              CPT. LAWRENCE: Correct.

18              MR. YOUNG: Okay. So tentatively we will  
19       try to reschedule a tomorrow morning re-interview,  
20       hopefully with your notes.

21              CPT. LAWRENCE: Okay.

22              MR. YOUNG: We'll establish a contact  
23       between us and what is a ballpark time to start? In  
24       the morning?

25              CPT. LAWRENCE: I would say more like 9:00 -

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

-

MR. YOUNG: Nine?

CPT. LAWRENCE: -- so that would give me an opportunity to begin the Incident Command Center and make sure we get things squared away. Then I can pass on responsibilities to my deputy at that point.

MR. [REDACTED] Should we have gone into --

MR. YOUNG: Not until later (inaudible).  
Does anyone else have anything for Captain Lawrence?  
All set. All right, we'll conclude this interview, and thank you for your time --

CPT. LAWRENCE: Okay.

MR. YOUNG: -- for being here today, and we look forward to speaking with you tomorrow.

CPT. LAWRENCE: Thank you.

MR. YOUNG: The time is 1510.

(Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went off the record at 3:10 p.m. and resumed at 4:37 p.m.)

MR. YOUNG: It is 1637. We're back at Jacksonville, Florida Marriott continuing the interview of John Lawrence, the DP for TOTE. My name is Brian Young. I'm the Hearing Group Chairman for NTSB.

MR. KUCHARSKI: Good afternoon again, Mike Kucharski, the Operations Group Chairman for the NTSB.

MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] the Coast Guard

1 representative on the Operations Group.

2 MR. STITH: Kevin Stith from TOTE Services  
3 on the Operations Group.

4 MR. PETERSON: Lee Peterson, TOTE Services.

5 MS. SERRIDGE: Melissa Serridge, TOTE  
6 Services representative on the Human Performance team.

7 MR. FISHER-ANDERSEN: Jim Fisher-Andersen  
8 from TOTE Services as representative on the  
9 Engineering team.

10 MR. O'DONNELL: Louis O'Donnell, Assistant  
11 Chief (inaudible) of ABS.

12 MS. FINSTERBUSCH: Patty Finsterbusch, TOTE  
13 Services, member of the Survival Group.

14 MR. [REDACTED] U.S. Coast Guard  
15 representative on the Engineering team.

16 MR. FAWCETT: Keith Fawcett, U.S. Coast  
17 Guard, Human Performance Group.

18 MS. BELL: Carrie Bell, NTSB Human  
19 Performance Group Chairman.

20 MR. FURUKAWA: Jon Furukawa, NTSB, Survival  
21 Factors Group Chairman.

22 MR. BRAGG: Kenneth Bragg, NTSB Human  
23 Performance Group.

24 MR. KYNE: Steve Kyne, Burke & Parsons,  
25 representative of the witness.



1 CPT. LAWRENCE: And John Lawrence, TOTE  
2 Services, Manager of Safety and Operations.

3 MR. YOUNG: Okay, thank you. For returning  
4 to the second part of this interview, we left off where  
5 John Lawrence was returning to his office to get his  
6 hand-written notes that were taken during the phone  
7 call between the El Faro and himself.

8 And we would like to continue this. If you  
9 would, please go through your notes and explain, to the  
10 best of your ability, what transpired during that  
11 communication.

12 CPT. LAWRENCE: Okay, first, I did make  
13 copies of my notes so I'll pass them around the table  
14 so everyone can read through them with me. There  
15 should be enough copies. If you can read my notes. I  
16 can interpret as we go through.

17 Does everybody have a copy? I've got some  
18 more copies here if anyone -- anybody who does not have  
19 a copy?

20 MR. YOUNG: How many pages have you got  
21 here?

22 CPT. LAWRENCE: Four pages on the -- yes,  
23 stapled. They're stapled.

24 MR. Petersen: Can we get one more, John?

25 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

1 MS. BELL: Right here.

2 CPT. LAWRENCE: Okay. Okay, now let's  
3 begin. As you can see, this is basically just my  
4 handwritten notes based on, once I was connected by the  
5 call center to, directly to the captain.

6 The first page -- let me just go through.  
7 The first page is the actual summary that I had written  
8 of the phone calls that I received or made after I  
9 finished the phone calls. And you can see, all the way  
10 from 0659 to 0927, while I was at my home receiving  
11 calls.

12 So what I'll do is I'll go through and then  
13 we'll jump to the actual notes that respond -- not  
14 respond, but go towards the number for the time. So  
15 you can see 0659 is when I missed the call from the  
16 ship that I spoke about before.

17 And at 0700 the captain left a message on my  
18 cell phone. I briefly wrote down the message here  
19 again to myself. Scuttle popped open on Number 2 Deck,  
20 all safe. Number 3 hold, water. Again, everybody  
21 safe, no engines. That's what I -- you heard the  
22 actual voicemail. That's how I quickly wrote down  
23 what, the way I interpreted it.

24 0706, when the call center actually began  
25 calling me. During that time I was trying to call the

1 captain back. So I picked up the phone and then at  
2 0706 I spoke with Captain Davidson.

3 So you can flip to the page, and it'll begin  
4 my conversation with him. Again, I picked it up and he  
5 said, "This is Mike Davidson, captain of the El Faro."  
6 My next line there says secured source of -- and that  
7 was a secured source of water, ingress of water, okay.

8 And, again, you can see exactly what I  
9 wrote. I may not have written down the entire  
10 sentence. Scuttle blown open and Number 3 Hold  
11 considerable meaning, interpreting as considerable  
12 water, okay.

13 Port list, no main engines. Then he gave me  
14 a latitude and longitude. The latitude 23-26.3 north,  
15 073-51.6 west. He had that ready and gave it to me.

16 He said the crew was safe. And then I asked  
17 him, okay, in relationship to land, where are you? He  
18 spoke -- and, again, I'm reading between the lines  
19 here. I didn't really write it down, but I heard him  
20 speak to -- or it was apparent to me -- the mate on  
21 watch on the bridge. And there was a woman's voice and  
22 she responded back to him with a position which, again,  
23 I'm interpreting, right, I assumed is from a spot, a  
24 position on the radar.

25 And then he relayed to me he was 48 miles

1 east of San Salvador. The next line, it says pump out  
2 hold. I don't recall if it's -- I know I had asked him  
3 if he thought he could pump out the hold. I don't know  
4 if that's, whether he volunteered that first or I asked  
5 him. I basically knew there was, he thought he could  
6 pump out the hold.

7 Then he volunteered, the next line, he said,  
8 by the way the list is -- he felt was partially due to  
9 wind to heel. Okay, next page, and he said, nobody's  
10 panicking.

11 Next line, I asked him about the weather.  
12 He said there was a northeast swell, 10 to 12 feet of  
13 swell and high winds. I asked him approximately how  
14 much of a list do you think you have. He said -- he  
15 paused for a few seconds and then said probably,  
16 approximately 15 degrees.

17 Again, next line, pumping the hold, I know I  
18 had asked him if he thought he could pump out the hold.  
19 And he -- again, I wrote down pumping the hold, but my  
20 impression is that he felt he could pump out the hold.

21 We did not discuss whether he was on  
22 emergency power or not. And then he told me that --  
23 one line I did not put in there, but he said that at  
24 this time we do not -- and, again, I'm not sure of his  
25 exact words, but basically at this time we do not plan

1 on leaving the ship.

2 Okay, and then he said that I just wanted to  
3 -- again, these aren't in my notes, but he said I just  
4 wanted to let you know of our condition and that --  
5 that's when he said we don't plan on leaving the ship,  
6 but I've got to push all the buttons.

7 And I wrote down SSAS as one of the buttons  
8 that he -- I said, are you going to push the SSAS, Ship  
9 Security Alarm System? He said, yes. And he didn't  
10 specifically say the other buttons but I just assume  
11 he's pushing any emergency button he had on the ship.

12 The rest of the notes are chicken scratch.  
13 I think I wrote those later, to be honest with you,  
14 later on, about the Coast Guard Miami and then the  
15 rescue coordinator. Those are just some notes as I was  
16 making calls later on. Okay?

17 Now if you go back to the first page -- no,  
18 stay on the next page, sorry. My apologies for jumping  
19 around but I didn't do a lot of planning right before I  
20 came in. 0703, that was based on one of the emergency  
21 calls.

22 Okay, 0724, well, actually I've got one more  
23 handout for you. Let's see. Okay, go back to the  
24 first page again. I apologize for jumping around, but  
25 I think you get a better timeline through that.

1                   Okay, you can see, at 076 I spoke with the  
2 captain. We went through that. Next line is 017. I  
3 received the Ship's Security Alarm System Alert, okay?  
4 And I do have -- I don't have, didn't bring a copy of  
5 that, but that's one of the things I said I do have on  
6 my emails, and I can forward that to you later, okay.  
7 I can print it out and get it to you later, okay?  
8 However you want.

9                   And so at, let's see, what time it is. I've  
10 got one more piece of paper to pass out to you. Okay,  
11 that's later. So at 724, which is -- at 717 I received  
12 the alert. And I said before we receive it by text.  
13 Everyone in the Emergency Response Team receives it by  
14 text and by email.

15                  And that actually has the position of the  
16 ship on that as well. The 724, I called the regional  
17 command center at Norfolk because that's where the --  
18 that's our protocol when we receive a SSAS alert. I  
19 spoke to the RCC Norfolk. They told me -- I told them  
20 it was not basically an emergency piracy alert. It was  
21 a ship in distress. And I talked to him and then they  
22 said they'd call Miami Coast Guard.

23                  At 738 I received a call from Coast Guard,  
24 Miami because I'd given my cell phone number to RCC  
25 Norfolk.

1                   Okay, jumping -- let's see. Okay, that was  
2   738. Okay, in between there, after I contacted the RCC  
3   Norfolk, I'll pass out one more sheet of the message I  
4   sent out to all the emergency response members in our  
5   company. I'll wait until everybody gets a copy.  
6   Everybody's got a copy? We're all set? Do you need  
7   one more, Patty? I'm sorry, Patty --

8                   MS. FINSTERBUSCH: We'll share.

9                   CPT. LAWRENCE: You'll have to share. Okay,  
10  those are the ones I left in the office that Patty  
11  called about. Okay, again, going back to the timeline,  
12  you can see that I called RCC Norfolk, 724, and then  
13  Miami contacted me 738.

14                  During that period, after I called RCC  
15  Norfolk, I sent this message out to the SSAS email  
16  address which goes to our Emergency Response Team at  
17  TOTE Services. You can see what I wrote. I typed in  
18  there, and what we try to do is obviously just give a  
19  quick and down details of the emergency.

20                  El Faro emergency, 49 miles east of San  
21  Salvador, took on water, 15 degree list, ingress  
22  stopped and pumping out. No main engines. Heavy winds  
23  and 15-foot sea. So that was -- and the Coast Guard  
24  notified.

25                  So that was my interpretation of my notes

1 alerting everybody else on the Emergency Response Team.  
2 Okay, so then after that, after I sent that out, I did  
3 receive, the Coast Guard in Miami contacted me.

4 And, I think if you go to the last page in  
5 the notes -- and these are really scratchy but you can  
6 see that, again, I summarized that 0724 I had spoken  
7 with RCC. There's other names in the circle from calls  
8 later on. I just used that page.

9 And this is my conversation with Coast Guard  
10 Miami underneath the long, scratchy triple line there,  
11 okay. And this is back and forth. Basically the Coast  
12 Guard told me, after I spoke to them, they said that  
13 the ship is not in a distress phase. We felt that it  
14 was in a disabled phase at this time.

15 So what they said, again, reading between  
16 the lines, they told me that they wouldn't be sending  
17 anybody out at this time because it's just disabled.  
18 Okay? Without power, I think that was a question. I  
19 said not sure. I said that it has no engines, so it  
20 didn't have any propulsion.

21 They asked me if the ship could anchor  
22 because I gave them the position of the ship,  
23 obviously, and they had it from RCC Norfolk as well.  
24 And they said they thought the ship could anchor  
25 because they said the position they looked at they felt



1 it was not that deep. It's, again, my chicken scratch  
2 there.

3 I told them that, personally, as I captain,  
4 I wouldn't anchor the ship. I said I don't have a  
5 chart in front of me. I'm not sure where it is, but in  
6 that type of weather I would not anchor the ship unless  
7 I'm about to go aground.

8 The Coast Guard in Miami told me they'd pass  
9 the information on to the Bahamas. And, again, they  
10 said their consideration at this time is that the ship  
11 is just disabled. And, the next line, they said it  
12 would be up to the company as far as, for a disabled  
13 vessel, as far as any commercial salvage assist would  
14 be our responsibility.

15 And then I tried to call the ship, and no  
16 response. And then during the next days and during  
17 that day, many times I attempted to call the ship along  
18 with many of the other people on the Emergency Response  
19 Team on numerous, different satellite numbers that we  
20 had.

21 And basically, the one that he called me on  
22 would ring three times and then drop. And that went on  
23 for approximately three days, I think. And I'm not  
24 sure of the timeline, but roughly, approximately three  
25 days, three to four days, and then finally, when we

1 started calling the ship again, it wouldn't even ring.

2 Okay, so I think that's it. And the other  
3 note there, all my notes, back on that same page, I  
4 think you can see Petty Officer [REDACTED] that's in  
5 the [REDACTED] number, that's the Miami Incident  
6 Command number.

7 And also you can see, again, to go through  
8 all my little scratches there, you can see another  
9 little circle where it says in territorial seas of a  
10 foreign country. That's when I made a note when I was,  
11 again, having obviously discussions with the Coast  
12 Guard, that I didn't capture every word we said.

13 Okay, I think that's it. Oh, no, we go back  
14 to the original pages for the final timeline as far as  
15 my notes go. So at 0738, like, I said, Coast Guard  
16 Miami contacted me. 0745 I contacted our salvage  
17 contractor and our vessel response plan that we have a  
18 contract with which is T&T Salvage. And I contacted  
19 them just to put them on standby, not knowing what we  
20 were up against.

21 And then I skipped a lot of times in between  
22 where I tried to get back to the ship. And I think at  
23 09 -- going back, at 0927 I just listed that was my  
24 last call from the Coast Guard.

25 They told me there were no vessels within,

1 from their search there were no vessels within a  
2 hundred miles. And they could have -- they had no  
3 communications with the vessel and asked me to keep,  
4 basically keep in touch with them, keep on. And that  
5 was it.

6 I'll show you the originals, but that's the  
7 exact same thing. It's just copies.

8 MR. YOUNG: All right, that's a lot of good  
9 information. Thank you for going back to get it and  
10 providing us with that.

11 Were you still on the phone with the captain  
12 when the SSAS alert was --

13 CPT. LAWRENCE: No.

14 MR. YOUNG: No, you already --

15 CPT. LAWRENCE: No, it --

16 MR. YOUNG: -- had completed the  
17 conversation?

18 CPT. LAWRENCE: Again, probably a couple  
19 words. I think I, if I recall correctly, I said to him  
20 at the end of the last two things we wrote down there,  
21 that were written there, I said, you know, when he said  
22 he was going to push all the buttons, I said, okay,  
23 captain, do your thing. And I will contact the Coast  
24 Guard.

25 And I did feel urgency, that he wanted to

1 get off the phone at that period. He told me  
2 everything he was planning on telling me. I had asked  
3 additional questions. And I felt that he had more  
4 important things to do, to go over any other small  
5 questions I had. Basically, I had gotten all the  
6 information I felt I needed at the time.

7 MR. KUCHARSKI: So this is Mike Kucharski.  
8 At 706, when you spoke to the captain about, now  
9 looking at your notes, do you think it was a 30-second,  
10 a 2-minute phone call, 5 minute-something? What I'm  
11 trying to develop or just look at here, he wanted to  
12 get off the phone and start pushing buttons?

13 CPT. LAWRENCE: Correct.

14 MR. KUCHARSKI: So in a very short time span  
15 it seems like there's, you know, they're safe, even in  
16 his conversation with you, on your notes, the swells,  
17 you wrote these 10 to 12-foot swell --

18 CPT. LAWRENCE: I did not feel an immense  
19 emergency.

20 MR. KUCHARSKI: Right, but --

21 CPT. LAWRENCE: I felt it was more a loss of  
22 power. I didn't feel that sensation that they were in  
23 that much danger. And he was very calm, very calm and  
24 professional throughout the whole conversation.

25 What alerted me a little bit was the one

1 sentence he said where we do not plan on leaving the  
2 ship. And that, as a rule, to say, to make a comment  
3 like that, did make an impression on me that maybe this  
4 is a little more serious than I was thinking at the  
5 time.

6 MR. KUCHARSKI: And then, very quickly, it  
7 went from his not thinking of leaving the ship to where  
8 he said he was going to start pushing buttons and he  
9 needed to get off the phone?

10 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes, but he had -- my  
11 opinion from the conversation was that's what he  
12 needed, that's why he was calling me, to let me know  
13 that -- again, this is my opinion, my interpretation.

14 And what I kind of felt from him was that he  
15 was calling me to let me know that he was going to be  
16 pushing emergency buttons, to give me his position and  
17 letting me know that he was not in a grave situation  
18 and that he was going to push his distress buttons.

19 And wanted to give me, and I think he even  
20 mentioned the word heads-up -- just want to give you a  
21 heads-up. And that's when I said, okay, do your thing,  
22 captain. And then I wanted to get off the phone quick  
23 for him.

24 MR. KUCHARSKI: And do we have the SSAS  
25 position somewhere?

1 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes. I have that. I can  
2 send that or email it to you or print it out. You  
3 know, I have a -- that's the one I have on my phone  
4 here, on the email.

5 MR. YOUNG: Email it to one of us and we'll  
6 forward it to the teams.

7 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes, I can. I've got the  
8 SSAS position, the alert -- you know, the alert we get.  
9 That's really all. It lists the name of the ship and  
10 the position and says SSAS alert. I can read it to you  
11 if that helps.

12 MR. KUCHARSKI: I just wanted to look at it.  
13 I see the position here that, 23 --

14 CPT. LAWRENCE: It was almost within a mile  
15 or two of --

16 MR. KUCHARSKI: This?

17 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes. I can tell you,  
18 really, if you want to -- let's see. That was on  
19 October 1st. Sorry, I've had a lot of emails since  
20 then.

21 Okay, now I actually have the email from the  
22 call center, who was first, on Thursday, October 1st,  
23 2015 at 7:03 a.m. And what that says is please all,  
24 and it has an 800 number, which is really the call  
25 center in case we get disconnected.

1                   And then it goes, slash, Michael C.  
2 Davidson, Ship Master [REDACTED]. And it doesn't  
3 say here but I think it was 206. I think she just  
4 wrote the number down wrong, but that's okay. I had  
5 the correct number because he had just called me. And  
6 it says El Faro and WNS. I'm not sure what WNS means.  
7 And then it has a message history account and that it  
8 was taken and stored as more of a in-house for the call  
9 center.

10                   But that's all it says from the call center.  
11 And it says To -- it was sent to the SSAS group. Okay,  
12 the next email I received was to the SSAS group again  
13 from the call center. It says, TSI ETR alert, RCH,  
14 follow instructions. I'm not quite sure how to  
15 interpret all that but that's the call center language.

16                   And it says October 1, 2015 at 7:07 a.m.  
17 And all the message actually says is dispatched to John  
18 Lawrence. So like I said before, once the call center  
19 reaches us, they'll send out another message while  
20 they're talking to me or after they call me, to  
21 everybody again to know who picked it up.

22                   So John Lawrence picked it up. So now  
23 everyone else knows that I got it so nobody else has to  
24 respond or call back. But the idea being, obviously,  
25 if you see nobody else responded, everyone on the

1 emergency, somebody should be trying to get through  
2 right away. Okay?

3 Then the next message I received after that  
4 was the SSAS alert report from, and it has a number  
5 which is a Inmarsat number, Inmarsat number of the SSAS  
6 for the vessel. But again, it says to SSAS. And if  
7 you're to open that up, that SSAS address will you give  
8 you all the names of the people on the emergency  
9 response team that it goes.

10 It goes to a certain number of people's cell  
11 text message, not everybody on the team. But then it  
12 goes to a few additional names as email as well as the  
13 one that it texts. And the alert message itself says,  
14 SSAS alert message, vessel name El Faro. And then SI  
15 which is a number for their equipment.

16 It says 368208000, the IMN number,  
17 436820812, latitude 23 25.22 North, Longitude 73 52.68  
18 West. Time, October 1, 2015, it says 10-01-2015. And  
19 then it says 11:15:57 UTC, that was the time. Then it  
20 gives the course, 227 degrees. Then it gives the  
21 speed, ten knots.

22 And then again, it gives the time which was the same  
23 time, 10-01-2015 and 11:15:57 UTC.

24 That's the full message that we get. After  
25 that, there was no other message involving the vessel.



1       Okay?

2                       MR. KUCHARSKI:  She was on a 227 degrees at  
3       ten knots?  Is that accurate or is that (inaudible)?

4                       CPT. LAWRENCE:  I'm not sure how accurate  
5       the SSAS is as far as speed and time and how that  
6       actually works.  So I really can't comment to that.

7                       MALE PARTICIPANT:  But it's coming off the  
8       AIS because it's got the MMSI number.  If it says that  
9       --

10                      MR. KUCHARSKI:  It should be out of the GPS  
11       feed into it though.

12                      MALE PARTICIPANT:  Right.

13                      MR. KUCHARSKI:  There was a loss of power so  
14       there's no telling.

15                      CPT. LAWRENCE:  Well it's got battery  
16       backup.  But still, I mean, you're talking about the  
17       time or the speed or --

18                      MR. KUCHARSKI:  In 100 knot wind?

19                      CPT. LAWRENCE:  This may have been -- again,  
20       I'm not going to even try to interpret this.  I don't  
21       know.  I'm not going to say something I don't know.  I  
22       don't know where it gets the speed or --

23                      (Simultaneously speaking)

24                      MR. STITH:  Kevin Stith from TOTE Services.  
25       The SSAS is fed through the sat C, the GMVSS sat C.  So

1 it gets its input from the GMVSS console. It has its  
2 own integral GPS and it receives speed and course  
3 information. I believe that it takes it from the gyro  
4 and from, you know, the speed indicator, you know.

5 So it should be, everything should be coming  
6 through the GMVSS console, sat C.

7 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] The course and the  
8 speed would be determined by the gyro?

9 MR. STITH: Yes.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Okay.

11 CPT. LAWRENCE: The gyro would give you the  
12 heading. But if it's getting a GPS feed, it can give  
13 you the course and the speed.

14 MR. STITH: I may have to investigate to  
15 determine whether the GMVSS is calculating the course  
16 or, you know, the heading, you know, because there's a  
17 difference.

18 MR. KUCHARSKI: We'll put that on the list  
19 to get the --

20 MR. YOUNG: We'll have to get the technical  
21 information.

22 MR. KUCHARSKI: -- the SSAS manufacturer.  
23 And then find out exactly what that feed is.

24 MR. YOUNG: Around the room, anybody else  
25 have any questions as we're absorbing all this?

1 MR. [REDACTED] I have one. [REDACTED] from  
2 the Coast Guard. In your notes, you say that you  
3 contacted Coast Guard Miami.

4 CPT. LAWRENCE: No. They contacted me.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. They contacted you.  
6 No, that's right. They contacted you at 7:30. Do you  
7 happen to know if that was the District office or the  
8 Sector office? Because we have both down there, just  
9 want to clarify. Do you have the number still in your  
10 phone by any chance?

11 CPT. LAWRENCE: No. It's actually on here  
12 on that last page. It says [REDACTED], Petty Officer  
13 [REDACTED] (phonetic). I wasn't sure how to put them.  
14 I'm pretty sure that, again, I'm trying to actually  
15 interpret because that's who we ended up speaking to  
16 quite a bit during the day down there in Sector Miami.

17 MR. [REDACTED] That's the District. That is  
18 the District.

19 CPT. LAWRENCE: That is the District? Okay.  
20 Yes because we were dealing with the District, you're  
21 right. I've been calling it Sector Miami through most  
22 of the incident for some reason. I didn't understand  
23 the difference between Sector Miami and -- I mean  
24 Sector, yes Sector Miami and D7.

25 MR. [REDACTED] So that corresponds to both

1 your 0738 and 0927, that was both with the same number?

2 CPT. LAWRENCE: That's correct.

3 MR. FISHER-ANDERSON: This is Jim Fisher-  
4 Anderson. For the record, just for clarification, what  
5 I was really curious about is, when I drill down on  
6 this is that heading. If that's where the bow was  
7 pointed or if that's a relative drift angle that's  
8 coming off of the information.

9 MR. KUCHARSKI: I've got it on my notes to  
10 ask for the SSAS operation manual. If we need to talk  
11 to the manufacturer -- if it's course made good,  
12 essentially, with the speed or if it's just a heading.  
13 Yes, that's --

14 MR. FISHER-ANDERSON: Right.

15 MR. KUCHARSKI: This is Mike Kucharski for  
16 the record. Sorry.

17 MR. FISHER-ANDERSON: When you were  
18 describing the information to the Coast Guard, I just  
19 want to clarify, you were giving them the information  
20 and they characterized the situation as disabled. Is  
21 that correct?

22 CPT. LAWRENCE: That's correct. Yes, that's  
23 correct. I gave them the information, then they said  
24 we can look at this as a disabled but not in distress  
25 vessel at this time.

1 MR. FISKER-ANDERSON: And do you recall if  
2 you pushed the distress issue on them? In other words  
3 saying --

4 CPT. LAWRENCE: I did not.

5 MR. FISKER-ANDERSON: Okay. And that phone  
6 call is most likely recorded and we probably want to  
7 get that.

8 MR. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] again with the  
9 Coast Guard. So prior to that, you said that at the  
10 0724 when you contacted RCC, did I hear you correctly  
11 earlier where you characterize it as distress and not -  
12 - you were calling to differentiate between distress  
13 and --

14 CPT. LAWRENCE: I don't recall my exact  
15 words with RCC Norfolk, I didn't write them down. But  
16 I remember I basically told them the information as I  
17 had from the sheet here, that I was mostly getting  
18 across to them that it was not a piracy alert  
19 basically. It was a, you know, I gave them the  
20 information, told them the information I had. I do not  
21 recall them differentiating between disabled or  
22 distress. I did tell them they had no main engines and  
23 the main parts that the Captain had given me. And then  
24 again, to the best of my recollection, they said they  
25 would be calling Coast Guard Miami. That's why I

1 didn't follow up and that I waited for the call back.

2 MS. BELL: Carrie Bell from NTSB. You  
3 mentioned that there was a woman in the background that  
4 you could hear speaking.

5 CPT. LAWRENCE: That's correct.

6 MS. BELL: What would you say her state was?  
7 Could you hear what she was saying or anything?

8 CPT. LAWRENCE: She seemed very -- I didn't  
9 get an impression of any panic or any urgency, just a  
10 matter of fact deal. The Captain asked her for  
11 position, she gave him position and what appeared to be  
12 in a professional manner.

13 MS. BELL: And you mentioned when you were  
14 stating the different reports that you were getting via  
15 email from the SSAS alert, or the call center actually.  
16 You said that they said something like RCH and you  
17 didn't know what that meant.

18 CPT. LAWRENCE: No, they didn't say that. I  
19 was just reading the actual message that I got from the  
20 call center.

21 MS. BELL: Yes.

22 CPT. LAWRENCE: I'm not sure what some of  
23 those letters mean on there. I just haven't gone back,  
24 I just look at the main part of the message. I'm not  
25 quite sure if it's -- it's not any code of ours.

1 MS. BELL: Okay.

2 CPT. LAWRENCE: So some type of a code of  
3 theirs.

4 MS. BELL: So you guys don't know -- they  
5 have code that they send. They have messages that they  
6 send to you that might have some --

7 CPT. LAWRENCE: No I mean --

8 MS. BELL: -- meaning that you would  
9 possibly not --

10 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes. I don't know if it's a  
11 phone, something that has to do with their calling  
12 center. I don't know. I mean, in all honestly,  
13 sometimes I used to have to ask what the PC meant  
14 before the number. Just not aware of texting protocol.  
15 Sometimes, you know, it took me a while to figure out  
16 that means please call.

17 MS. BELL: Okay. So they don't have a log  
18 of the types of acronyms or whatever they use that you  
19 might need to know?

20 CPT. LAWRENCE: They may but I've never  
21 asked for it.

22 MS. BELL: Okay. Do you guys have to do  
23 some kind of training for that type of --

24 CPT. LAWRENCE: No.

25 MS. BELL: Okay.

1 MR. FURUKAWA: John Furukawa, NTSB. Who did  
2 you call at RCC Miami -- or I'm sorry, RCC Norfolk?

3 CPT. LAWRENCE: I don't recall writing down  
4 the name.

5 MR. FURUKAWA: Number?

6 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes I called the number but  
7 it's not in writing here. It's actually in our  
8 emergency team manual which we have our manual with all  
9 our contact numbers in there. If you, basically if an  
10 LES -- we have a SASS protocol. If an SASS alert goes  
11 on, you receive it, it tells you what numbers to call  
12 for RCC Norfolk. There's also RCC Alameda depending  
13 what area you're in.

14 MR. FURUKAWA: Do you remember the name of  
15 the person you talked to?

16 CPT. LAWRENCE: I do not.

17 MR. FURUKAWA: Thank you.

18 MR. [REDACTED] This is [REDACTED] with the Coast  
19 Guard. You had said you called them, TNT South?

20 CPT. LAWRENCE: Yes.

21 MR. [REDACTED] And what was their response, just  
22 out of curiosity? And would there be any chance at all  
23 that they would have communicated with the ship prior  
24 to that?

25 CPT. LAWRENCE: No. Well to my knowledge,



1 they did not try to communicate with the vessel.  
2 Typically what -- and again, I don't recall my exact  
3 conversation with them. But they're part of our  
4 emergency response manual or vessel response plan.  
5 They are our contracted salvage and marine firefighting  
6 contractor that we have on contract. So I just called  
7 their number and I gave them a standby, told them the  
8 situation. And I said, just putting you on notice in  
9 case we need you.

10 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. Thank you.

11 MR. YOUNG: Anybody else have any further  
12 questions? Okay.

13 MR. KUCHARSKI: I'd just like to say this is  
14 tremendously helpful.

15 CPT. LAWRENCE: Again, I apologize I didn't  
16 bring my notes in the first time. But I wanted to get  
17 them to you as quick as we could.

18 MR. YOUNG: Great information.

19 CPT. LAWRENCE: I'm glad you wanted to see  
20 me again today.

21 MR. YOUNG: So if there's no further  
22 questions or comments, we'll secure the recording. And  
23 the time is 17:16.

24 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter went  
25 off the record at 5:16 p.m.)

<p><b>A</b></p> <p><b>a.m</b> 7:21 39:23 40:16</p> <p><b>ability</b> 22:11 26:10</p> <p><b>able</b> 4:12 5:22 17:9 19:8</p> <p><b>above-entitled</b> 24:17 50:24</p> <p><b>ABS</b> 1:17 3:16 25:11</p> <p><b>absorbing</b> 43:25</p> <p><b>Academy</b> 4:1</p> <p><b>Accident</b> 1:4</p> <p><b>account</b> 40:7</p> <p><b>accurate</b> 42:3,4</p> <p><b>acronyms</b> 48:18</p> <p><b>actual</b> 8:10 27:7,13 27:22 47:19</p> <p><b>add</b> 12:2</p> <p><b>additional</b> 16:4 37:3 41:12</p> <p><b>address</b> 32:16 41:7</p> <p><b>afternoon</b> 24:23</p> <p><b>aground</b> 34:7</p> <p><b>AIS</b> 42:8</p> <p><b>Alameda</b> 49:12</p> <p><b>Alarm</b> 30:9 31:3</p> <p><b>Alaska</b> 4:7</p> <p><b>alert</b> 31:3,12,18,20 36:12 39:8,8,10 40:13 41:4,13,14 46:18 47:15 49:10</p> <p><b>alerted</b> 37:25</p> <p><b>alerting</b> 33:1</p> <p><b>ample</b> 19:3</p> <p><b>anchor</b> 33:21,24 34:4,6</p> <p><b>Andersen</b> 2:23</p> <p><b>Anderson</b> 45:4</p> <p><b>angle</b> 45:7</p> <p><b>anybody</b> 26:18 33:17 43:24 50:11</p> <p><b>anymore</b> 13:12</p> <p><b>apologies</b> 30:18</p> <p><b>apologize</b> 30:24 50:15</p> <p><b>apparent</b> 28:20</p> <p><b>apparently</b> 6:13</p>	<p><b>appeared</b> 47:11</p> <p><b>appreciate</b> 10:2 22:10</p> <p><b>appropriate</b> 16:13 16:20</p> <p><b>approximately</b> 17:5 18:8 29:13,16 34:23,24</p> <p><b>area</b> 49:13</p> <p><b>array</b> 15:10</p> <p><b>art</b> 15:10</p> <p><b>ashore</b> 2:7</p> <p><b>asked</b> 28:16 29:2,4 29:11,13,18 33:21 36:3 37:2 47:10 48:21</p> <p><b>asking</b> 12:11 19:13</p> <p><b>assist</b> 22:11 34:13</p> <p><b>Assistant</b> 3:15 25:10</p> <p><b>assume</b> 30:10</p> <p><b>assumed</b> 8:3 28:23</p> <p><b>AT&amp;T</b> 18:25</p> <p><b>attempt</b> 5:20</p> <p><b>attempted</b> 34:17</p> <p><b>attended</b> 3:25</p> <p><b>audio</b> 1:24</p> <p><b>audits</b> 13:22,23</p> <p><b>August</b> 4:16</p> <p><b>availability</b> 21:13</p> <p><b>available</b> 21:1,9,25</p> <p><b>aware</b> 15:12 48:14</p> <p><b>awhile</b> 19:21</p> <p><b>B</b></p> <p><b>back</b> 4:14 6:19,19 6:23 18:19 21:4 21:14,23 24:19 28:1,22 30:17,23 32:11 33:11 35:3 35:13,22,23 36:9 40:24 47:1,23</p> <p><b>background</b> 3:23 47:3</p> <p><b>backup</b> 42:16</p> <p><b>backwards</b> 8:9 9:13</p> <p><b>Bahamas</b> 1:4 34:9</p>	<p><b>ballpark</b> 23:23</p> <p><b>based</b> 19:7 27:4 30:20</p> <p><b>basically</b> 13:16 16:13,19,21 18:23 27:3 29:5,25 31:20 33:11 34:21 36:4 37:5 46:16 46:19 49:9</p> <p><b>battery</b> 42:15</p> <p><b>began</b> 6:16 27:24</p> <p><b>beginning</b> 5:21 19:20</p> <p><b>BEHALF</b> 1:20</p> <p><b>believe</b> 43:3</p> <p><b>Bell</b> 1:14 3:7,7 15:21,21 16:10,15 17:9,12,18,20 25:18,18 27:1 47:2,2,6,13,21 48:1,4,8,17,22,25</p> <p><b>best</b> 9:18,24 12:10 20:16 21:19,24 26:10 46:24</p> <p><b>better</b> 30:25</p> <p><b>bill</b> 19:1</p> <p><b>bit</b> 37:25 44:16</p> <p><b>blown</b> 28:10</p> <p><b>Board</b> 1:1,24</p> <p><b>boilers</b> 10:13</p> <p><b>bow</b> 45:6</p> <p><b>Bragg</b> 1:14 3:11,11 17:14,14,22,22 18:1,4,8,13 19:4,7 19:13,18 20:4,9 25:22,22</p> <p><b>Brian</b> 1:15 2:8 22:19 24:21</p> <p><b>bridge</b> 7:23 22:21 28:21</p> <p><b>briefly</b> 27:18</p> <p><b>bring</b> 22:1 31:4 50:16</p> <p><b>broad</b> 15:10</p> <p><b>brought</b> 13:23</p> <p><b>Burke</b> 1:21 25:24</p> <p><b>businesslike</b> 20:2</p> <p><b>button</b> 30:11</p>	<p><b>buttons</b> 30:6,7,10 36:22 37:12 38:8 38:16,18</p> <p><b>C</b></p> <p><b>C</b> 40:1 42:25,25 43:6</p> <p><b>calculating</b> 43:15</p> <p><b>call</b> 5:11,12,13,14 5:14,15,20,22,25 6:1,2,4,6,8,8,9,14 6:15,18,20 7:19 8:10 9:10,15,16 9:20 10:4 11:10 13:19 14:5 16:9 18:5,12 19:19 20:2 22:21 23:6 26:7 27:5,15,24 27:25 31:22,23 34:15,17 35:24 37:10 39:22,24 40:8,10,13,15,18 40:20,24 46:6 47:1,15,20 48:16 49:2,11</p> <p><b>called</b> 6:13,21 8:8 13:18 15:15 31:16 32:11,12,14 34:21 40:5 49:6,19 50:6</p> <p><b>calling</b> 27:25 35:1 38:12,15 44:21 46:12,25 48:11</p> <p><b>calls</b> 11:8 17:6 19:1 27:8,9,11 30:16 30:21 33:7</p> <p><b>calm</b> 20:1 37:23,23</p> <p><b>CAPT</b> 1:7</p> <p><b>captain</b> 4:3,6 5:22 6:13,25 7:2 8:21 10:4 13:17 14:6 15:7 17:24 24:9 27:5,17 28:1,2,5 31:2 34:3 36:11 36:23 37:8 38:22 46:23 47:10</p> <p><b>capture</b> 35:12</p> <p><b>captured</b> 18:17</p> <p><b>cargo</b> 12:23,24</p>
--	--	--	--

**Carrie** 1:14 3:7  
15:21 25:18 47:2  
**case** 39:25 50:9  
**cell** 5:12,21 6:13  
16:3,4 23:12  
27:18 31:24 41:10  
**center** 5:13,14 6:2  
6:9,20 9:16 14:6  
14:12,19 21:19  
22:21 24:4 27:5  
27:24 31:17 39:22  
39:25 40:9,10,13  
40:15,18 47:15,20  
48:12  
**certain** 41:10  
**chairman** 2:9,14  
3:7,10 24:22,24  
25:19,21  
**challenges** 20:5  
**chance** 44:10 49:22  
[REDACTED] 35:4  
**characterize** 46:11  
**characterized**  
45:20  
**charge** 5:6  
**chart** 34:5  
[REDACTED] 44:13  
**check** 9:8  
**chicken** 30:12 34:1  
**Chief** 3:16 25:11  
**circle** 33:7 35:9  
**civilian** 3:5  
**clarification** 45:4  
**clarify** 44:9 45:19  
**Coast** 1:4,15,18,19  
2:16 3:2,4 13:2  
15:6 16:21 17:3  
24:25 25:14,16  
30:14 31:22,23  
32:23 33:3,9,11  
34:8 35:11,15,24  
36:23 44:2,3  
45:18 46:9,25  
49:18  
**code** 47:25 48:2,5  
**come** 7:10 21:23  
**comes** 10:3  
**comfortable** 11:19

**coming** 8:3,3 9:10  
17:6 42:7 43:5  
45:8  
**command** 16:24  
17:8 21:11,19,21  
22:15 24:4 31:17  
35:6  
**comment** 38:2 42:6  
**comments** 50:22  
**commercial** 34:13  
**communicate** 50:1  
**communicated**  
16:25 49:23  
**communication**  
4:21 8:25 10:17  
17:1,2 26:11  
**communications**  
36:3  
**company** 4:7,15  
15:9,11 16:20  
17:4 21:12 32:5  
34:12  
**company's** 18:18  
**completed** 36:16  
**completely** 20:25  
**concerns** 13:24  
**conclude** 24:10  
**condition** 30:4  
**connected** 14:6,8  
14:18 27:4  
**considerable** 28:11  
28:11  
**consideration**  
34:10  
**considering** 22:2  
**console** 43:1,6  
**consult** 20:11  
**consultant** 3:14  
**contact** 5:1,10 9:2  
16:22 18:5 23:22  
36:23 49:9  
**contacted** 32:2,13  
33:3 35:16,16,18  
44:3,4,5,6 46:10  
**continue** 21:21  
26:8  
**continuing** 24:20  
**contract** 35:18 50:6

**contracted** 50:5  
**contractor** 35:17  
50:6  
**conversation** 9:19  
19:7 28:4 33:9  
36:17 37:16,24  
38:11 50:3  
**conversations**  
14:19  
**cooperate** 21:24  
**coordinator** 5:6  
30:15  
**copies** 26:13,15,18  
36:7  
**copy** 26:17,19 31:4  
32:5,6  
**correct** 9:12 14:10  
23:17 37:13 40:5  
45:2,21,22,23  
47:5  
**correctly** 36:19  
46:10  
**corresponds** 44:25  
**country** 35:10  
**couple** 36:18  
**course** 41:20 43:2  
43:7,13,15 45:11  
**CPT** 3:17,21,25 5:4  
6:10,12 7:4,7,11  
7:13,16,20,24 8:2  
8:12,15,18,21 9:4  
9:6,12,21 10:6,11  
10:15,19,21,24  
11:2,4,6,9,13,16  
11:20,25 12:3,7  
12:13,22,25 13:7  
13:14,19,25 14:7  
14:10,13,16,21,24  
15:2,4,12,16,18  
15:24 16:12,16  
17:11,13,16,19,21  
17:25 18:2,6,10  
18:14 19:5,10,17  
19:23 20:6,15,18  
20:22,25 21:7,10  
21:17 22:7,13,22  
22:24 23:10,17,21  
23:25 24:3,12,15

26:1,12,22,25  
27:2 32:9 36:13  
36:15,18 37:13,18  
37:21 38:10 39:1  
39:7,14,17 42:4  
42:15,19 43:11  
44:4,11,19 45:2  
45:22 46:4,14  
47:5,8,18,22 48:2  
48:7,10,20,24  
49:3,6,16,20,25  
50:15,19  
**crew** 28:16  
**critical** 12:11  
**curiosity** 49:22  
**curious** 15:13 45:5

---

## D

---

**D7** 44:24  
**damage** 12:24,24  
**danger** 37:23  
**data** 14:6,11,19  
**Davidson** 8:21,22  
13:17 17:24 28:2  
28:5 40:2  
**day** 18:15,21 21:6  
34:17 44:16  
**days** 12:17 21:18  
34:16,23,25,25  
**DCA16MM001** 1:4  
**deal** 47:10  
**dealing** 44:20  
**Deck** 27:19  
**deep** 34:1  
**definitely** 22:10,17  
**degree** 32:21  
**degrees** 29:16  
41:20 42:2  
**demeanor** 19:24  
[REDACTED] 1:19 2:15  
2:15 13:2,2,12  
24:25,25 44:1,1,5  
44:17,25 46:8,8  
**departed** 10:18  
**depending** 6:5  
49:12  
**depends** 16:16,16  
**deputy** 24:6

**describes** 15:10  
**describing** 45:18  
**description** 4:25  
 10:13 16:8  
**designated** 2:6  
 23:11,12  
**detail** 13:6  
**details** 32:19  
**determine** 43:15  
**determined** 43:8  
**develop** 37:11  
**dialed** 23:8  
**dialing** 6:19,22,23  
**Diesel** 12:6  
**difference** 43:17  
 44:23  
**different** 34:19  
 47:14  
**differentiate** 46:12  
**differentiating**  
 46:21  
**dire** 19:8  
**direct** 5:12,24  
**directly** 6:25 9:17  
 27:5  
**Director** 11:22  
**disabled** 33:14,17  
 34:11,12 45:20,24  
 46:21  
**disconnected**  
 39:25  
**discuss** 29:21  
**discussed** 4:20  
**discussions** 35:11  
**dispatched** 40:17  
**distress** 31:21  
 33:13 38:18 45:24  
 46:2,11,12,22  
**District** 44:7,17,18  
 44:19,20  
**doing** 12:15  
**DP** 24:21  
**drift** 45:7  
**drill** 45:5  
**drills** 13:18  
**drop** 34:22  
**drove** 17:7  
**due** 29:8

---

**E**


---

**earlier** 46:11  
**earliest** 21:8  
**east** 29:1 32:20  
**efforts** 22:12  
**either** 5:11 10:22  
 10:24 12:20 22:8  
**EI** 1:4 4:21 8:4  
 13:22 26:7 28:5  
 32:20 40:6 41:14  
**email** 5:19 6:3 16:2  
 16:4 17:17,18  
 31:14 32:15 39:2  
 39:4,5,21 40:12  
 41:12 47:15  
**emails** 31:6 39:19  
**emergency** 4:22,25  
 5:5,6,9,10,11,12  
 5:18,20,24 6:1,4  
 6:20 12:6 15:22  
 15:25 16:3,5,9  
 17:4 19:20,20  
 29:22 30:11,20  
 31:13,20 32:4,16  
 32:19,20 33:1  
 34:18 37:19 38:16  
 41:1,8 49:8 50:4  
**ended** 44:15  
**engineering** 2:8,23  
 3:3 10:3 25:9,15  
**engines** 10:7,7,10  
 12:10,21 27:21  
 28:13 32:22 33:19  
 46:22  
**entire** 28:9  
**entirely** 21:12  
**Environment** 4:8  
**equipment** 41:15  
**erases** 18:16  
**especially** 13:21  
**ESQ** 1:21  
**essentially** 45:12  
**establish** 23:22  
**establishing** 17:2  
**ETR** 40:13  
**eventually** 17:4  
**everybody** 26:17  
 27:20 32:5 33:1

40:21 41:11  
**Everybody's** 9:2  
 32:6  
**exact** 20:8 29:25  
 36:7 46:14 50:2  
**exactly** 10:9 12:15  
 13:8 18:3,11  
 22:24 28:8 43:23  
**experience** 3:24  
**explain** 26:9  
**express** 19:15

---

**F**


---

**facing** 20:5  
**fact** 20:2 47:10  
**Factors** 25:21  
**familiar** 13:10  
**far** 5:10 9:24 18:24  
 21:1 34:12,13  
 35:14 42:5  
**Faro** 1:4 4:21 8:4  
 26:7 28:5 32:20  
 40:6 41:14  
**Faro's** 13:22  
**Fawcett** 1:15 3:4,4  
 15:6,6,13,17,20  
 25:16,16  
**February** 4:14  
**fed** 42:25  
**feed** 42:11 43:12,23  
**feel** 20:12,16 36:25  
 37:18,22  
**feet** 29:12  
**felt** 17:5 19:18 29:8  
 29:20 33:13,25  
 37:3,6,21 38:14  
**figure** 48:15  
**final** 35:14  
**finally** 18:5 34:25  
**find** 7:5 22:16 43:23  
**finished** 27:9  
**Finsterbusch** 1:16  
 2:25,25 14:3  
 25:12,12 32:8  
**firefighting** 50:5  
**firm** 20:20  
**first** 6:7,14 26:12  
 27:6,7 29:4 30:17

30:24 39:22 50:16  
**Fisker** 2:22 45:3  
**Fisker-Andersen**  
 1:16 2:22 25:7,7  
**FSKER-ANDER...**  
 45:3,14,17 46:1,5  
**flip** 28:3  
**flooding** 15:14  
**Florida** 1:11 2:5  
 4:17 24:20  
**focus** 22:11  
**focusing** 4:20  
**follow** 40:14 47:1  
**follow-up** 15:22  
 20:10 22:19  
**foreign** 35:10  
**form** 19:8  
**forth** 33:11  
**forward** 21:5 24:14  
 31:6 39:6  
**four** 26:22 34:25  
**free** 8:25  
**Friday** 18:20  
**front** 34:5  
**full** 41:24  
**fully** 21:24  
**further** 10:13 22:18  
 50:11,21  
**Furukawa** 1:13 3:9  
 3:9 25:20,20 49:1  
 49:1,5,14,17

---

**G**


---

**general** 13:20  
**getting** 20:20 43:12  
 46:17 47:14  
**give** 9:23 19:10  
 24:3 32:18 38:16  
 38:19,20 41:7  
 43:11,12  
**given** 31:24 46:23  
**gives** 41:20,20,22  
**giving** 45:19  
**glad** 50:19  
**GMVSS** 42:25 43:1  
 43:6,15  
**go** 2:3,9,11 8:25  
 11:13 12:16 13:5

19:11 26:9,16  
 27:6,12,14 30:17  
 30:23 33:4 34:7  
 35:7,13,15 37:4  
**goes** 18:7,19 21:2  
 32:16 40:1 41:9  
 41:10,12 49:10  
**going** 2:3,9 5:23  
 8:8 19:21 21:21  
 22:15,16 30:8  
 32:11 35:23 36:9  
 36:22 38:8,15,18  
 42:20,21  
**good** 9:1 20:12  
 22:18 24:23 36:8  
 45:11  
**gotten** 37:5  
**GPS** 42:10 43:2,12  
**graduated** 4:1  
**grave** 38:17  
**Great** 50:18  
**greatly** 22:11  
**group** 2:9,14,16,18  
 2:21,24 3:1,3,6,7  
 3:8,9,10,12 4:5  
 16:2 19:2 24:22  
 24:24 25:1,3,13  
 25:17,19,21,23  
 40:11,12  
**Guard** 1:15,18,19  
 2:16 3:3,5 13:3  
 15:7 16:21 17:3  
 24:25 25:14,17  
 30:14 31:22,23  
 32:23 33:3,9,12  
 34:8 35:12,15,24  
 36:24 44:2,3  
 45:18 46:9,25  
 49:19  
**guess** 6:21 12:1  
 15:8 22:20  
**guys** 14:9 48:4,22  
**gyro** 43:3,8,11

---

## H

---

**hand** 16:14 20:20  
**hand-written** 26:6  
**handle** 22:4

**handout** 30:23  
**handwritten** 27:4  
**happen** 15:11 44:7  
**happening** 22:14  
**happens** 16:11,12  
**hats** 23:11  
**heading** 43:12,16  
 45:6,12  
**heads-up** 38:20,21  
**Health** 4:8  
**hear** 7:9 46:10 47:4  
 47:7  
**heard** 5:2 13:3  
 27:21 28:19  
**Hearing** 24:22  
**Heavy** 32:22  
**heel** 29:9  
**help** 21:15  
**helpful** 18:14 50:14  
**helps** 39:11  
**Hi** 2:13  
**high** 29:13  
**history** 13:16 40:7  
**hold** 4:12 5:15,22  
 27:20 28:10 29:2  
 29:3,6,17,18,19  
 29:20  
**home** 16:19 27:10  
**honest** 30:13  
**honestly** 13:7  
 48:12  
**hopefully** 23:20  
**Hotel** 1:10  
**HR** 2:19  
**HSQE** 4:11  
**Human** 2:20 3:5,8  
 3:11 17:14,22  
 25:6,17,18,22  
**hundred** 36:2

---

## I

---

**ick** 6:14  
**idea** 40:24  
**imagine** 18:25  
**immediately** 5:18  
 6:24 8:5 9:17  
**immense** 37:18  
**IMN** 41:16

**important** 22:3 37:4  
**impression** 29:20  
 38:3 47:9  
**in-house** 40:8  
**inaudible** 3:16 18:4  
 24:8 25:11 42:3  
**incident** 1:4 8:23  
 11:21 15:8,15  
 16:8,13,17,24  
 17:8 21:11,11,18  
 21:21 22:15,20  
 24:4 35:5 44:22  
**incoming** 18:25  
**incorrect** 12:17  
**indicator** 43:4  
**information** 14:15  
 14:17 15:3 34:9  
 36:9 37:6 43:3,21  
 45:8,18,19,23  
 46:16,20,20 50:18  
**ingress** 28:7 32:21  
**initial** 8:12  
**initially** 6:12,12  
**Inmarsat** 7:23,25  
 8:11 41:5,5  
**input** 43:1  
**instructions** 40:14  
**integral** 43:2  
**interested** 7:9  
**internal** 13:22,23  
**interpret** 26:16  
 40:15 42:20 44:15  
**interpretation**  
 32:25 38:13  
**interpreted** 27:23  
**interpreting** 28:11  
 28:23  
**interview** 1:7 3:22  
 4:20,21 22:3  
 24:10,20 26:4  
**interviewed** 21:16  
**INTERVIEWEE**  
 1:20  
**interviewing** 2:6  
**interviews** 22:4  
**introduce** 2:10  
**investigate** 43:14  
**investigator** 3:5

**involving** 41:25  
**issue** 13:18 46:2  
**issues** 10:5 13:24  
**it'll** 28:3

---

## J

---

**Jacksonville** 1:11  
 2:5 4:17 24:20  
**Jersey** 4:15  
**Jim** 1:16 2:22 25:7  
 45:3  
**job** 4:12,14  
**John** 1:7 2:7,12  
 3:14,17,19,23  
 7:14 24:21 26:1,5  
 26:24 40:17,22  
 49:1  
**Jon** 1:13 3:9 25:20  
**jump** 27:13  
**jumping** 30:18,24  
 32:1

---

## K

---

**KC** 4:10  
**keep** 8:23 18:23  
 36:3,4,4  
**Keith** 1:15 3:4 15:6  
 25:16  
**Kenneth** 1:14 3:11  
 17:14,22 25:22  
**kept** 17:2  
**Kevin** 1:18 2:17  
 13:15 25:2 42:24  
**kind** 9:13 38:14  
 48:23  
**knew** 29:5  
**knot** 42:18  
**knots** 41:21 42:3  
**know** 5:1 8:2 9:24  
 10:12 11:7,16  
 12:13,15,17 13:7  
 13:8,9 14:21,25  
 15:8,16,19 16:18  
 18:15,18 19:19  
 29:2,3,17 30:4  
 36:21 37:15 38:12  
 38:15,17 39:3,8  
 40:21 42:21,21,22

43:4,4,16,16 44:7  
46:19 47:17 48:4  
48:10,12,15,19  
**knowing** 35:19  
**knowledge** 10:19  
10:22 11:9 12:19  
17:24 49:25  
**knows** 40:23  
**Kucharski** 1:13  
2:13,13 12:5,9,19  
12:23 13:1 24:23  
24:24 37:7,7,14  
37:20 38:6,24  
39:12,16 42:2,10  
42:13,18 43:18,22  
45:9,15,15 50:13  
**Kyne** 1:21 3:13,13  
25:24,24

---

**L**

---

**L-A-W-R-E-N-C-E**  
3:21  
**land** 28:17  
**language** 40:15  
**latitude** 28:14,14  
41:17  
**Lawrence** 1:7 2:7  
3:14,17,17,21,25  
5:4 6:10,12 7:4,7  
7:11,13,16,20,24  
8:2,12,15,18 9:4,6  
9:12,21 10:6,11  
10:15,19,21,24  
11:2,4,6,9,13,16  
11:20,25 12:3,7  
12:13,22,25 13:7  
13:14,19,25 14:7  
14:10,13,16,21,24  
15:2,4,12,16,18  
15:24 16:12,16  
17:11,13,16,19,21  
17:25 18:2,6,10  
18:14 19:5,10,17  
19:23 20:6,15,18  
20:22,25 21:7,10  
21:17 22:7,13,22  
22:24 23:10,17,21  
23:25 24:3,9,12

24:15,21 26:1,1,5  
26:12,22,25 27:2  
32:9 36:13,15,18  
37:13,18,21 38:10  
39:1,7,14,17  
40:18,22 42:4,15  
42:19 43:11 44:4  
44:11,19 45:2,22  
46:4,14 47:5,8,18  
47:22 48:2,7,10  
48:20,24 49:3,6  
49:16,20,25 50:15  
50:19  
**LCDR** 1:18  
**leader** 4:8  
**leaving** 6:16 30:1,5  
38:1,7  
**Lee** 1:17 25:4  
**left** 6:17,22 7:2 8:4  
8:8,9 19:25 26:4  
27:17 32:10  
**length** 18:12  
**LES** 49:10  
**let's** 9:6 27:2 30:23  
31:9 32:1 39:18  
**letters** 47:23  
**letting** 38:17  
**level** 20:1  
**license** 4:2  
**line** 5:23,23 28:6  
29:1,7,11,17,23  
31:2 33:10 34:11  
**lines** 28:18 33:16  
**list** 28:13 29:8,14  
32:21 43:18  
**listed** 35:23  
**listened** 6:17  
**lists** 39:9  
**little** 35:8,9 37:25  
38:4  
**locate** 23:8  
**located** 4:15 21:22  
**locations** 23:13  
**log** 48:17  
**long** 9:5 18:5,7,11  
33:10  
**longer** 18:23  
**longitude** 28:14

41:17  
**look** 11:11 18:6  
20:13,24 21:3,5  
24:14 37:11 39:12  
45:24 47:24  
**looked** 18:15 33:25  
**looking** 18:11  
20:19 21:20 37:9  
**loss** 12:20 37:21  
42:13  
**losses** 12:20  
**lost** 10:7 12:24  
**lot** 30:19 35:21 36:8  
39:19  
**Louis** 1:17 3:15  
25:10

---

**M**

---

**m** 5:23  
**main** 10:7,7,10  
12:10 28:13 32:22  
46:22,23 47:24  
**major** 16:18  
**making** 30:16  
**male** 7:14 42:7,12  
**management** 20:13  
**manager** 2:19 3:18  
4:18 13:21 26:2  
**manner** 47:12  
**manual** 5:8 45:10  
49:8,8 50:4  
**manufacturer**  
43:22 45:11  
**marine** 3:24 4:1  
50:5  
**Maritime** 4:5  
**Marriott** 1:10 2:6  
24:20  
**MARSAT** 23:6  
**Master** 4:3 40:2  
**mate** 28:20  
1:19 2:15 13:2  
24:25 44:1 46:8  
**matter** 20:2 24:17  
47:10 50:24  
**mean** 19:13 20:15  
20:23 21:23 42:16  
44:23 47:23 48:7

48:12  
**meaning** 28:11  
48:8  
**means** 40:6 48:16  
**meant** 47:17 48:13  
**Melissa** 1:19 2:19  
25:5  
**member** 2:16 4:23  
25:13  
**members** 6:1 32:4  
**memory** 12:16  
**mention** 20:5  
**mentioned** 38:20  
47:3,13  
**Merchant** 4:1  
**message** 6:16,17  
6:18,22 7:2 8:4,6  
8:7,8,9 9:9,14,15  
15:25 19:25 27:17  
27:18 32:3,15  
40:7,17,19 41:3  
41:11,13,14,24,25  
47:19,24  
**messages** 48:5  
**met** 17:25 18:2,3  
**Miami** 30:14 31:22  
31:24 32:13 33:3  
33:10 34:8 35:5  
35:16 44:3,16,21  
44:23,24 46:25  
49:2  
**Michael** 8:21 40:1  
1:13,18 2:13  
3:2 12:4 24:23  
25:14 28:5 37:7  
43:7 45:15 49:18  
**mile** 39:14  
**miles** 28:25 32:20  
36:2  
**mine** 18:18,19  
**minor** 16:17  
**minute-something**  
37:10  
**minutes** 18:8,9  
**missed** 6:15 8:6  
27:15  
**MMSI** 42:8  
**morning** 5:3 6:7

8:22 22:17 23:19  
23:24

## N

**name** 2:8 3:20  
24:21 39:9 41:14  
49:4,14  
**names** 33:7 41:8,12  
**National** 1:1,24  
**nature** 13:23  
**navigational** 8:23  
15:7,15  
**need** 14:25 21:1  
32:6 45:10 48:19  
50:9  
**needed** 37:6 38:9  
38:12  
**never** 48:20  
**New** 4:11,15  
**Nine** 24:2  
**nobody's** 29:9  
**noontime** 17:5  
**Norfolk** 31:17,19,25  
32:3,12,15 33:23  
46:15 49:2,12  
**north** 28:14 41:17  
**northeast** 29:12  
**note** 35:3,10  
**notes** 9:22,23,25  
10:8 11:12,14,19  
12:14 13:6 18:6  
19:12 20:7,11,19  
21:3,9,25 22:3,10  
23:20 26:6,9,13  
26:15 27:4,13  
30:3,12,15 32:25  
33:5 35:3,15 37:9  
37:16 44:2 45:9  
50:16  
**notice** 50:8  
**notification** 17:10  
**notifications** 16:20  
**notified** 32:24  
**notify** 5:15,18 16:8  
**NTSB** 1:4,13,13,14  
1:14,15 2:9,14 3:7  
3:9,11 15:21  
22:20 24:22,24

25:18,20,22 47:2  
49:1

**number** 5:13,13  
6:20 7:22,23,25  
22:20 23:1,2,6,7  
23:12 27:14,19,20  
28:10 31:24 35:5  
35:6 39:24 40:4,5  
41:4,5,5,10,15,16  
42:8 44:9 45:1  
48:14 49:5,6 50:7  
**numbers** 23:2  
34:19 49:9,11  
**numerous** 34:19

## O

**O'Donnell** 1:17  
3:15,15 25:10,10  
**obviously** 32:18  
33:23 35:11 40:24  
**October** 1:5,9 2:4  
7:20 39:19,22  
40:16 41:18  
[REDACTED] 1:18 3:2,2  
9:7 14:4,8,11,14  
14:18,23,25 15:3  
15:5 20:10,17,19  
20:23 21:3 24:7  
25:14,14 43:7,7  
43:10 49:18,18,21  
50:10  
**offer** 11:11  
**office** 5:9 7:23  
10:18,21,25 11:8  
16:24 17:7,8 21:4  
21:16,18 26:5  
32:10 44:7,8  
**Officer** 35:4 44:12  
**Oh** 35:13  
**okay** 3:22 4:19 5:4  
7:20 8:1,14,15,18  
10:2,16,20,23  
11:5,15,18 12:1,3  
13:1,1,12,14,20  
14:1,23 15:17,20  
17:9,12,20,21  
19:4 20:4,9,17  
22:7 23:5,14,18

23:21 24:12 26:3  
26:12 27:2,2 28:7  
28:12,17 29:9  
30:2,16,22,23  
31:1,3,6,7,10 32:1  
32:1,2,9,11 33:2  
33:11,18 35:2,13  
36:22 38:21 39:21  
40:4,11 41:2 42:1  
43:10 44:5,19  
46:5 48:1,17,22  
48:25 50:10,12  
**once** 5:14,25 6:1  
12:13 27:4 40:18  
**ones** 32:10  
**open** 8:24 13:4  
27:19 28:10 41:7  
**operation** 45:10  
**Operations** 2:14,16  
2:18 3:18 4:18  
13:21 24:24 25:1  
25:3 26:2  
**opinion** 19:8,11  
38:11,13  
**opportunity** 24:4  
**order** 5:20  
**original** 35:14  
**originals** 36:6  
**out** 31:10  
**outgoing** 19:1  
**Overseas** 4:4,5

## P

**P** 1:21  
**P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-...**  
2:1  
**p.m** 2:2 24:18,18  
50:25  
**page** 27:6,7 28:3  
29:9 30:17,18,24  
33:4,8 35:3 44:12  
**pages** 26:20,22  
35:14  
**panic** 20:3 47:9  
**panicked** 19:19  
**panicking** 29:10  
**paper** 31:10  
**Parsons** 1:21 25:24

**part** 26:4 47:24  
50:3  
**partially** 29:8  
**PARTICIPANT** 42:7  
42:12  
**parts** 46:23  
**party** 14:11  
**pass** 12:1 24:5  
26:13 31:10 32:3  
34:8  
**passive** 14:20  
**Patty** 1:16 2:25  
25:12 32:7,7,10  
**paused** 29:15  
**PC** 48:13  
**people** 5:8,18,20  
11:8 16:5 34:18  
41:8  
**people's** 41:10  
**Performance** 2:20  
3:5,8,12 17:15,23  
25:6,17,19,23  
**period** 17:6 18:17  
18:22 32:14 37:1  
**person** 2:6,7 5:23  
6:4 16:25 23:11  
23:12 49:15  
**person's** 16:4  
**personal** 17:24  
**personally** 34:3  
**Petersen** 26:24  
**Peterson** 1:17 14:2  
25:4,4  
**Petty** 35:4 44:12  
**phase** 33:13,14  
**phone** 5:12 6:8,13  
6:15 9:10,20 10:4  
11:8,10 16:4,4,23  
18:16,18,19,20,24  
20:2 23:6,7,8,12  
26:6 27:8,9,18  
28:1 31:24 36:11  
37:1,10,12 38:9  
38:22 39:3 44:10  
46:5 48:11  
**phones** 5:21  
**phonetic** 44:13  
**picked** 6:3,24 8:7

9:16 28:1,4 40:21  
40:22  
**piece** 31:10  
**piracy** 31:20 46:18  
**place** 7:17 21:20  
**plan** 29:25 30:5  
35:17 38:1 50:4  
**planning** 30:19  
37:2  
**play** 8:15  
**playback** 8:20 13:3  
**please** 3:19,23 4:24  
18:13 26:9 39:23  
48:16  
**point** 6:25 16:22  
24:6  
**pointed** 45:7  
**popped** 8:24 13:4  
27:19  
**port** 4:6 28:13  
**position** 13:17  
28:22,24 31:15  
33:22,25 38:16,25  
39:8,10,13 47:11  
47:11  
**possible** 20:21 22:6  
**possibly** 12:16 19:2  
20:15 48:9  
**post** 22:25 23:1,4  
**posted** 22:21 23:12  
**power** 12:6 29:22  
33:18 37:22 42:13  
**prefer** 11:12,13  
20:6  
**PRESENT** 1:20  
**preserved** 7:14  
**pretty** 9:1 44:14  
**previous** 12:20  
**print** 31:7 39:2  
**prior** 10:16 17:23  
46:9 49:23  
**probably** 18:10  
29:15 36:18 46:6  
**problems** 11:22  
**proceed** 22:4  
**process** 15:22  
19:14  
**produced** 1:24

**professional** 37:24  
47:12  
**propulsion** 10:5  
11:23 12:20 33:20  
**protocol** 31:18  
48:14 49:10  
**provide** 9:25 12:14  
17:11 19:3,12  
**provided** 1:24  
**providing** 11:19  
36:10  
**pump** 29:1,3,6,18  
29:20  
**pumping** 29:17,19  
32:22  
**push** 30:6,8 36:22  
38:18  
**pushed** 46:2  
**pushing** 30:11  
37:12 38:8,16  
**put** 6:25 8:18 9:13  
16:6,7 29:23  
35:19 43:18 44:13  
**putting** 50:8

---

### Q

**Quality** 4:9  
**question** 10:3  
12:12 14:4 20:11  
33:18  
**questions** 12:2  
13:13,16 14:2,3  
22:19 37:3,5  
43:25 50:12,22  
**quick** 3:23 16:7  
32:19 38:22 50:17  
**quickly** 20:21 27:22  
38:6  
**quite** 40:14 44:16  
47:25

---

### R

**radar** 28:24  
**ramped** 16:24  
**RCC** 31:19,24 32:2  
32:12,14 33:7,23  
46:10,15 49:2,2  
49:12,12

**RCH** 40:13 47:16  
**re-establish** 17:1  
**re-interview** 20:12  
23:19  
**reached** 5:2  
**reaches** 40:19  
**read** 26:14,15  
39:10  
**reading** 28:18  
33:15 47:19  
**ready** 8:15 28:15  
**Real** 9:21  
**really** 9:22 12:11  
13:15 15:16 19:24  
20:20,20 21:10  
23:3 28:19 33:5  
39:9,18,24 42:6  
45:5  
**reason** 44:22  
**recall** 10:15 12:22  
12:25 13:19,24,25  
18:3 29:2 36:19  
46:1,14,21 49:3  
50:2  
**receive** 16:1 31:12  
31:18 33:3 49:11  
**received** 9:10,14,15  
14:5 27:8 31:3,11  
31:23 40:12 41:3  
**receives** 31:13 43:2  
**receiving** 27:10  
**recognize** 7:22,24  
**recollect** 12:5,9  
**recollection** 9:19  
9:24 10:6,8 12:10  
46:24  
**recommunicate**  
17:1  
**reconvene** 20:12  
**record** 2:4 3:20  
4:13 14:19 18:19  
18:24 24:18 45:4  
45:16 50:25  
**recorded** 9:10 46:6  
**recording** 2:11 8:20  
9:7 50:22  
**records** 18:18,25  
**refer** 5:7 9:22 10:8

20:6 23:3  
**regards** 13:21  
**regional** 31:16  
**relation** 13:17  
15:14  
**relationship** 28:17  
**relative** 45:7  
**relay** 17:3  
**relayed** 28:25  
**relaying** 20:8  
**relocated** 4:16  
**remember** 9:19  
12:7 46:16 49:14  
**report** 10:4 41:4  
**reported** 11:23  
**reports** 47:14  
**representative** 2:18  
3:13 25:1,6,8,15  
25:25  
**request** 6:18  
**reschedule** 23:19  
**rescue** 30:15  
**respond** 16:13,18  
27:13,14 40:24  
**responded** 16:19  
28:22 40:25  
**response** 4:22,25  
5:5,7,9,13,19,21  
5:24 6:1,4 15:23  
15:25 16:3,5,9  
17:4 23:3 31:13  
32:4,16 33:1  
34:16,18 35:17  
41:9 49:21 50:4,4  
**responsibilities** 5:5  
24:6  
**responsibility**  
34:14  
**rest** 9:1 21:13  
30:12  
**resumed** 24:18  
**returning** 26:3,5  
**right** 2:3,4 7:13,16  
8:9,12,13 10:11  
14:23 19:11 20:22  
21:10 23:15 24:10  
27:1 28:23 30:19  
36:8 37:20 41:2



42:12 44:6,21  
45:14  
**ring** 6:14 34:22  
35:1  
**ringing** 6:22 9:16  
**room** 2:10,11 12:2  
43:24  
**roughly** 5:8 34:24  
**rule** 38:2  
**running** 21:11

---

### S

---

**safe** 9:2 27:20,21  
28:16 37:15  
**safety** 1:1,24 3:18  
4:8,18 11:22  
13:20 20:13 26:2  
**sailed** 4:2,2,3  
**Salvador** 29:1  
32:21  
**salvage** 34:13  
35:16,18 50:5  
**San** 29:1 32:20  
**SASS** 49:10,10  
**sat** 42:25,25 43:6  
**satellite** 6:20 34:19  
**saying** 12:7 46:3  
47:7  
**says** 23:1 28:6 29:1  
35:9 39:10,23  
40:6,10,11,13,16  
40:17 41:6,13,16  
41:18,19 42:8  
44:12  
**schedule** 21:5 22:5  
**scheduling** 21:5  
**scratch** 30:12 34:1  
**scratches** 35:8  
**scratchy** 33:5,10  
**scuttle** 8:24 13:4,9  
27:19 28:10  
**sea** 32:23  
**search** 36:1  
**seas** 35:9  
**second** 9:20 11:10  
26:4  
**seconds** 9:6 18:9  
29:15

**Sector** 44:8,16,21  
44:23,24,24  
**secure** 50:22  
**secured** 28:6,7  
**Security** 30:9 31:3  
**see** 9:6 18:7 23:4,7  
27:3,9,15 28:8  
30:23 31:1,9 32:1  
32:12,17 33:6  
35:4,7,8 39:13,18  
40:25 50:19  
**seeing** 8:4  
**send** 6:2 15:25 16:2  
39:2 40:19 48:5,6  
**sending** 33:16  
**sends** 16:3  
**sensation** 37:22  
**sent** 17:10,17 32:4  
32:15 33:2 40:11  
**sentence** 28:10  
38:1  
**serious** 13:24 38:4  
**Serridge** 1:19 2:19  
2:19 25:5,5  
**Services** 1:16,16  
1:17,18,19 2:20  
2:23 3:1,18 4:17  
25:2,4,6,8,13 26:2  
32:17 42:24  
**set** 24:10 32:6  
**seven** 5:8  
**share** 32:8,9  
**sheet** 32:3 46:17  
**ship** 6:8 10:17  
23:13 27:16 30:1  
30:5,8,11 31:16  
31:21 33:13,21,22  
33:24 34:4,6,10  
34:15,17 35:1,22  
38:2,7 39:9 40:2  
49:23  
**Ship's** 31:3  
**Shipholding** 4:4  
**short** 8:23 14:4  
37:14  
**show** 36:6  
**SI** 41:14  
**similar** 19:25

**Simultaneously**  
42:23  
**sir** 10:2  
**situation** 19:9  
38:17 45:20 50:8  
**six** 5:8  
**skipped** 35:21  
**slash** 40:1  
**small** 37:4  
**SMS** 15:9 22:21  
23:3  
**somebody** 6:3 41:1  
**soon** 9:9 22:5  
**sorry** 8:7,8 9:13  
17:16 19:5 30:18  
32:7 39:19 45:16  
49:2  
**sounded** 15:8  
**source** 28:6,7  
**South** 49:19  
**span** 37:14  
**speak** 5:22 28:20  
**Speaker** 8:19  
**speaking** 24:14  
42:23 44:15 47:4  
**specifically** 10:3  
30:10  
**speculate** 19:11  
**speed** 41:21 42:5  
42:17,22 43:2,4,8  
43:13 45:12  
**spell** 3:20  
**spoke** 7:1 9:17  
27:16 28:2,18  
31:1,19 33:12  
37:8  
**spoken** 33:6  
**spot** 28:23  
**squared** 24:5  
**SSAS** 30:7,8 31:18  
32:15 36:12 38:24  
39:8,10 40:11,12  
41:4,5,6,7,14 42:5  
42:25 43:22 45:10  
47:15  
**stage** 21:21  
**standby** 35:19 50:7  
**stapled** 26:23,23

**start** 3:22 12:4  
23:23 37:12 38:8  
**started** 35:1  
**starts** 18:20  
**state** 47:6  
**stating** 47:14  
**stay** 30:18  
**stayed** 16:19,23  
**STEPHEN** 1:21  
**Steve** 3:13 25:24  
**Stith** 1:18 2:17,17  
13:15,15,20 14:1  
25:2,2 42:24,24  
43:9,14  
**stopped** 32:22  
**stored** 40:8  
**storm** 12:24  
**summarized** 33:6  
**summary** 27:7  
**supposed** 22:25  
**sure** 14:21 15:2  
20:7,7 21:12  
22:14,24 23:1  
24:5 29:24 33:19  
34:5,24 40:6,14  
42:4 44:13,14  
47:22,25  
**Surrounding** 11:21  
**Survival** 3:1,10  
25:13,20  
**swell** 29:12,13  
37:17  
**swells** 37:16  
**system** 20:13 30:9  
31:3  
**systems** 11:23

---

### T

---

**T&T** 35:18  
**table** 26:13  
**take** 4:24 5:25 6:1  
**taken** 26:6 40:8  
**takes** 43:3  
**talk** 9:3 45:10  
**talked** 31:21 49:15  
**talking** 13:8,10  
40:20 42:16  
**Tank** 4:7

**team** 4:8,22,25 5:5  
5:7,9,19,21,24 6:1  
6:5 15:23 16:1,3,5  
16:9,15,24 17:4  
25:6,9,15 31:13  
32:16 33:1 34:19  
41:9,11 49:8  
**teams** 39:6  
**technical** 43:20  
**telephone** 6:20  
18:12  
**tell** 7:10,18 10:9  
18:10 39:17 46:22  
**telling** 37:2 42:14  
**tells** 49:11  
**ten** 4:6 41:21 42:3  
**tentatively** 23:18  
**term** 15:7,9,9  
**terminology** 15:14  
15:19  
**terms** 15:22  
**territorial** 35:9  
**text** 5:19 6:3 16:3  
17:10,16 31:12,14  
41:11  
**texting** 48:14  
**texts** 41:13  
**th** 4:8  
**thank** 4:19 7:12  
12:4 13:1 15:20  
17:12,20 24:11,15  
26:3 36:9 49:17  
50:10  
**theirs** 48:3  
**they'd** 31:22 34:8  
**thing** 19:23 36:7,23  
38:21  
**things** 13:4,22,23  
15:10 24:5 31:5  
36:20 37:4  
**think** 12:14 17:5  
18:15,16,22 19:1  
19:23 21:7,19,24  
22:2,14 29:14  
30:13,25 33:4,18  
34:23 35:2,4,13  
35:22 36:19 37:9  
38:19 40:3,3

**thinking** 19:16 38:4  
38:7  
**third** 14:11  
**thought** 19:6,14  
29:3,5,18 33:24  
**three** 34:22,23,24  
34:25  
**Thursday** 8:22  
39:22  
**time** 4:5 6:15 7:10  
7:19 9:25 10:4  
15:19 16:7 17:8  
19:3,9,15,24  
21:23 22:1,16  
23:23 24:11,16  
27:14,25 29:24,25  
31:9 33:14,17  
34:10 37:6,14  
38:5 41:18,19,22  
41:23 42:5,17  
45:25 50:16,23  
**timeframe** 10:18  
**timeline** 30:25  
32:11 34:24 35:14  
**times** 18:3 34:17,22  
35:21  
**TNT** 49:19  
**today** 21:13 22:9  
24:13 50:20  
**told** 29:22 31:19,19  
33:12,16 34:3,8  
35:25 37:1 46:16  
46:20 50:7  
**tomorrow** 21:6,13  
22:9,16,16 23:19  
24:14  
**tonight** 22:9  
**TOTE** 1:16,16,17,18  
1:19 2:7,17,20,23  
3:1,17 4:17 13:15  
24:21 25:2,4,5,8  
25:12 26:1 32:17  
42:24  
**touch** 6:25 9:1 36:4  
**track** 18:23  
**training** 3:24 48:23  
**transcript** 1:24  
**transpired** 26:10

**Transportation** 1:1  
1:24 4:10  
**tremendously**  
50:14  
**tried** 34:15 35:22  
**triple** 33:10  
**try** 22:5,9,16 23:19  
32:18 42:20 50:1  
**trying** 12:16 15:9  
17:1 19:14,21  
27:25 37:11 41:1  
44:14  
**TSI** 40:13  
**turbines** 10:14  
**two** 13:16 14:8,18  
22:18 36:20 39:15  
**type** 5:11 12:24  
16:17 34:6 48:2  
48:23  
**typed** 32:17  
**types** 48:18  
**typical** 7:25  
**typically** 6:2,5 13:9  
15:25 50:2

---

### U

---

**U.S** 1:15,18,19 3:2  
3:4 4:1 15:6 25:14  
25:16  
**uh** 8:23 9:1,2  
**Um** 8:23 9:2  
**underneath** 33:10  
**understand** 4:22  
19:14,15,22 20:25  
44:22  
**understanding**  
19:18  
**understood** 20:9  
22:13  
**urgency** 36:25 47:9  
**use** 48:18  
**UTC** 41:19,23

---

### V

---

**various** 23:13  
**verbally** 9:2  
**vessel** 5:11 8:2  
12:21 13:11 17:2

34:13 35:17 36:3  
41:6,14,25 45:25  
50:1,4  
**vessels** 5:1 35:25  
36:1  
**vice-president** 4:11  
**voice** 6:17,18 19:25  
28:21  
**voicemail** 13:3  
27:22  
**volunteered** 29:4,7  
**voyage** 11:24

---

### W

---

**wait** 32:5  
**waited** 47:1  
**want** 9:1,3 16:6  
21:24 31:8 38:20  
39:18 44:9 45:19  
46:6  
**wanted** 30:2,4  
36:25 37:11 38:19  
38:22 39:12 50:16  
50:19  
**wasn't** 17:16 44:13  
**watch** 28:21  
**water** 8:25 27:20  
28:7,7,12 32:21  
**way** 2:11 13:5 16:1  
20:16 22:8 27:9  
27:23 29:8  
**we'll** 2:11,12 3:22  
9:8 12:4 20:13  
21:22 23:22 24:10  
27:13 32:8 39:5  
43:18,20 50:22  
**we're** 2:3,5,6,9  
21:20 24:19 32:6  
43:25  
**weather** 29:11 34:6  
**Wednesday** 1:9 2:4  
**week** 18:16,22,24  
**went** 3:25 4:4,6,7  
4:10 6:8 16:19  
24:17 31:2 34:22  
38:7 50:24  
**west** 28:15 41:18  
**wind** 29:9 42:18

**winds** 29:13 32:22  
**witness** 25:25  
**WNS** 40:6,6  
**woman** 47:3  
**woman's** 28:21  
**word** 35:12 38:20  
**words** 29:25 36:19  
 46:2,15  
**work** 4:4,7,10  
**worked** 4:5  
**works** 42:6  
**wouldn't** 11:16  
 17:6 33:16 34:4  
 35:1  
**write** 28:19 46:15  
**writing** 49:3,7  
**written** 27:7 28:9  
 36:21  
**wrong** 40:4  
**wrote** 16:7 27:18  
 27:22 28:9 29:19  
 30:7,13 32:17  
 36:20 37:17 40:4

**X****XO** 9:8**Y**

**year** 4:16  
**years** 4:2,3,6  
**York** 4:11  
**Young** 1:15 2:3,8  
 3:19,22 4:19 6:7  
 6:11 7:2,5,8,12,18  
 7:22 8:1,11,14,17  
 9:5,8,18 10:2,10  
 10:12,16,20,23  
 11:1,3,5,7,10,15  
 11:18,21 12:1,4  
 21:8,15 22:2,8,18  
 22:19,23 23:5,15  
 23:18,22 24:2,8  
 24:13,16,19,22  
 26:3,20 36:8,14  
 36:16 39:5 43:20  
 43:24 50:11,18,21

**Z****0**

**017** 31:2  
**0659** 8:6,7,10 27:10  
 27:15  
**0700** 8:22 10:18  
 11:1 27:17  
**0703** 30:20  
**0706** 27:24 28:2  
**0724** 30:22 33:6  
 46:10  
**073-51.6** 28:15  
**0738** 35:15 45:1  
**0745** 35:16  
**076** 31:1  
**09** 35:23  
**0927** 27:10 35:23  
 45:1

**1**

**1** 1:5 40:16 41:18  
**10** 18:8,9 29:12  
 37:17  
**10-01-2015** 41:18  
 41:23  
**100** 42:18  
**11:15:57** 41:19,23  
**12** 29:12  
**12-foot** 37:17  
**14** 4:2  
**1445** 2:5  
**15** 29:16 32:21  
**15-foot** 32:23  
**1510** 24:16  
**1637** 24:19  
**17:16** 50:23  
**1975** 4:1  
**1st** 7:20 39:19,22

**2**

**2** 18:8 27:19  
**2-deck** 8:24  
**2-minute** 37:10  
**2:45** 2:2  
**2014** 4:14  
**2015** 1:5,9 7:20  
 39:23 40:16 41:18  
**206** 40:3  
**227** 41:20 42:2

**23** 39:13 41:17  
**23-26.3** 28:14  
**25.22** 41:17

**3**

**3** 8:25 27:20 28:10  
**3-hold** 8:25  
**3:10** 24:18  
**30-second** 37:9  
 35:5  
 44:12  
**35** 9:6  
**368208000** 41:16

**4**

**4:37** 24:18  
**436820812** 41:17  
**48** 28:25  
**49** 32:20

**5**

**5** 37:10  
**5:16** 50:25  
**52.68** 41:17  
**528** 23:16

**6****7**

**7** 1:9  
**7:00** 7:21  
**7:03** 39:23  
**7:07** 40:16  
**7:30** 44:6  
**706** 37:8  
**717** 31:11  
**724** 31:11,16 32:12  
**73** 41:17  
**738** 31:23 32:2,13  
**7th** 2:4

**8**

**800** 39:24  
 23:15  
 23:14  
 40:2

**9****9:00** 23:25

C E R T I F I C A T E

MATTER: El Faro Incident  
Accident No. DCA16MM001  
Interview of Captain John Lawrence  
Jacksonville, Florida

DATE: 10-07-15

I hereby certify that the attached transcription of page 1 to 61 inclusive are to the best of my professional ability a true, accurate, and complete record of the above referenced proceedings as contained on the provided audio recording; further that I am neither counsel for, nor related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this proceeding has taken place; and further that I am not financially nor otherwise interested in the outcome of the action.

  
-----

**NEAL R. GROSS**

COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

1323 RHODE ISLAND AVE., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-3701

[www.nealrgross.com](http://www.nealrgross.com)